MARVEL® COMICS

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THE PUNISHER®

YEAR ONE™

THE PUNISHER®

YEAR ONE

BOOK TWO™

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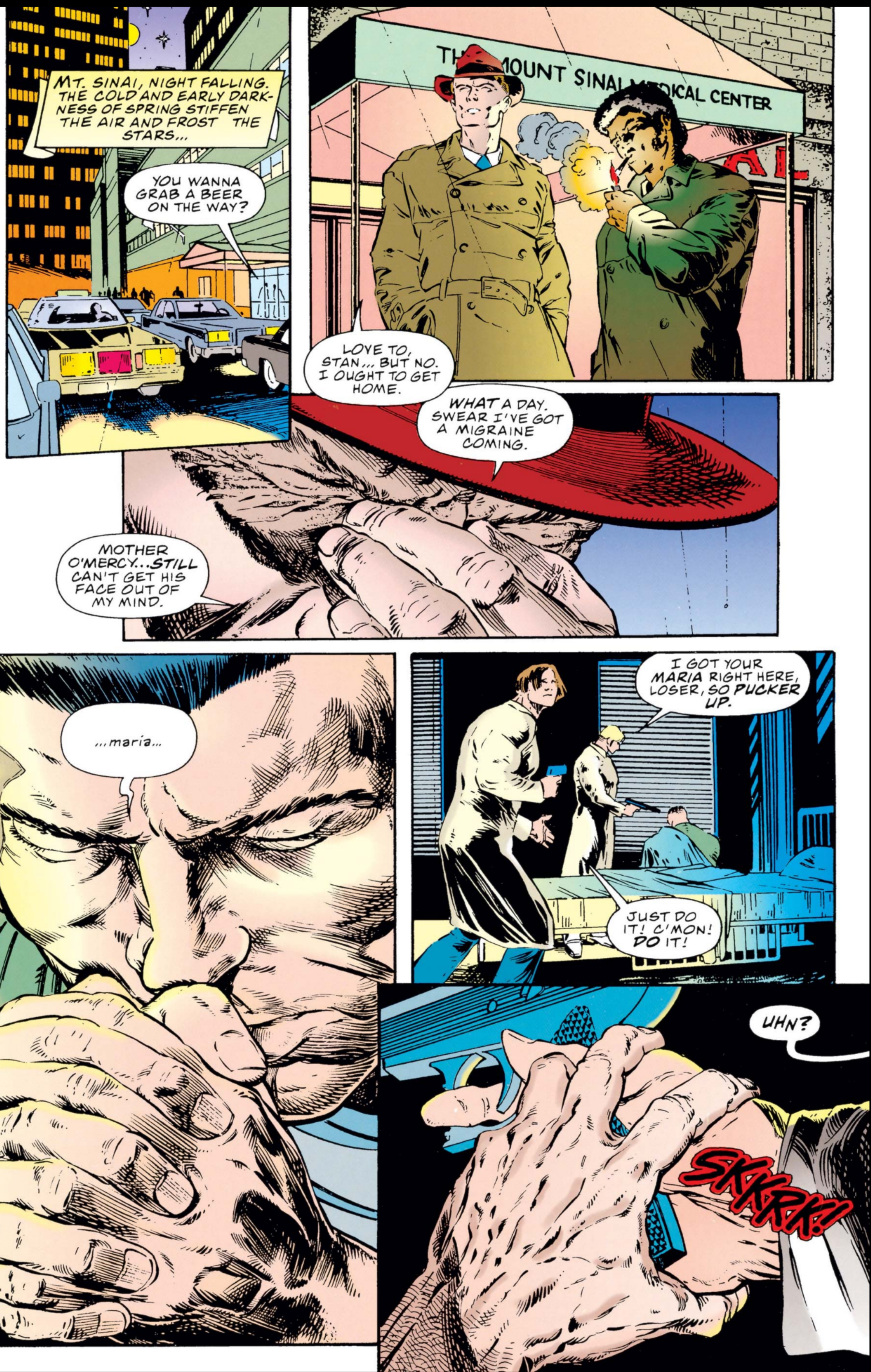
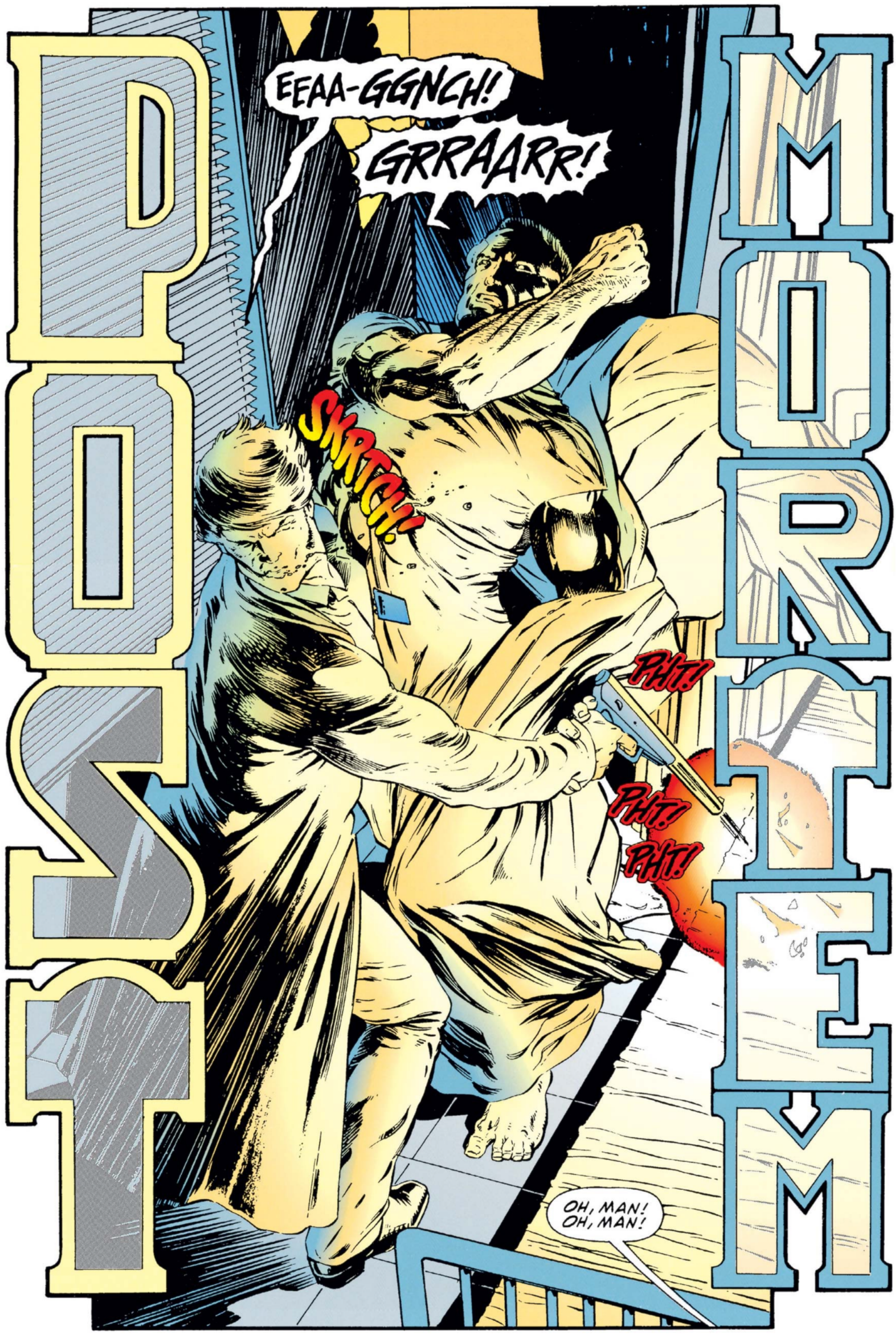
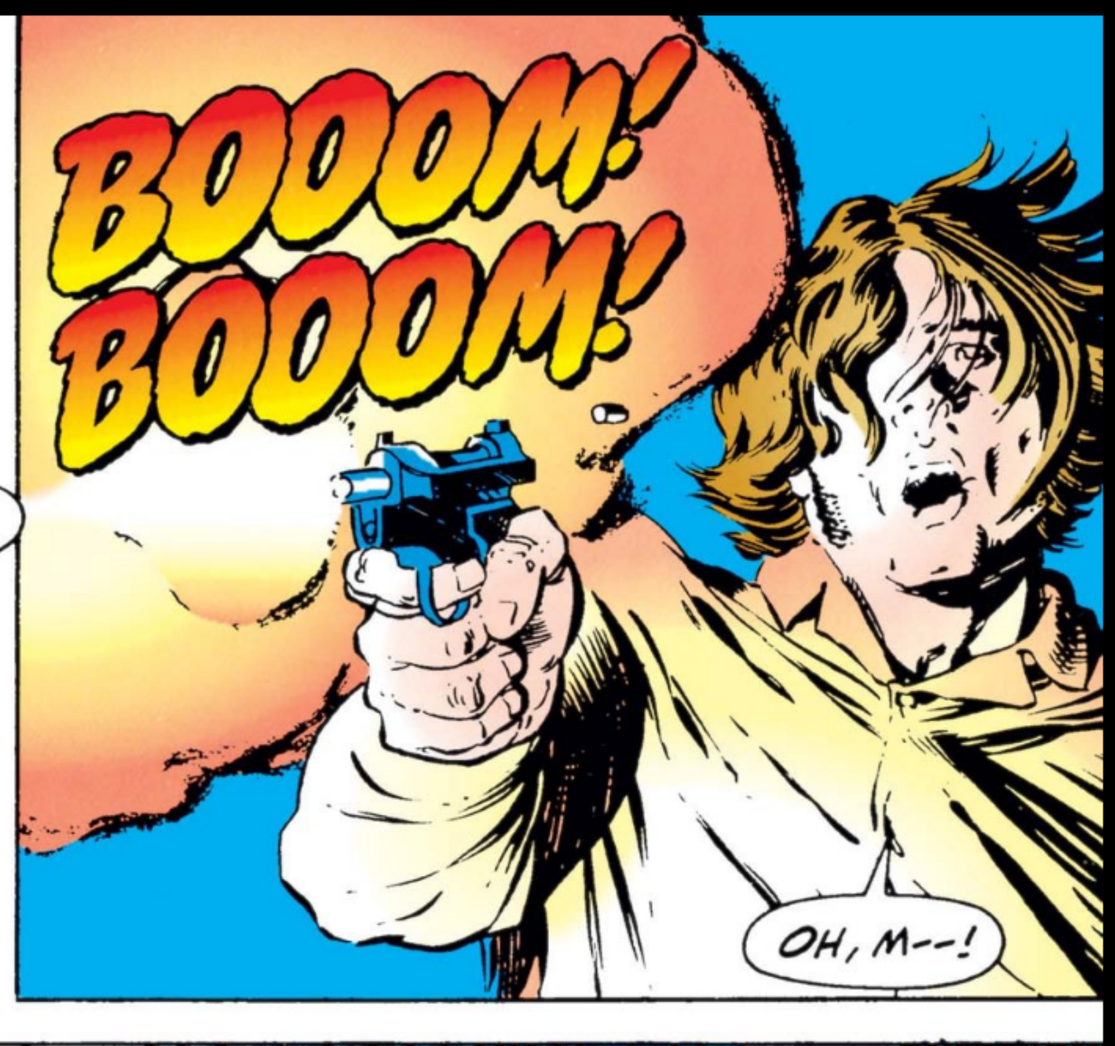
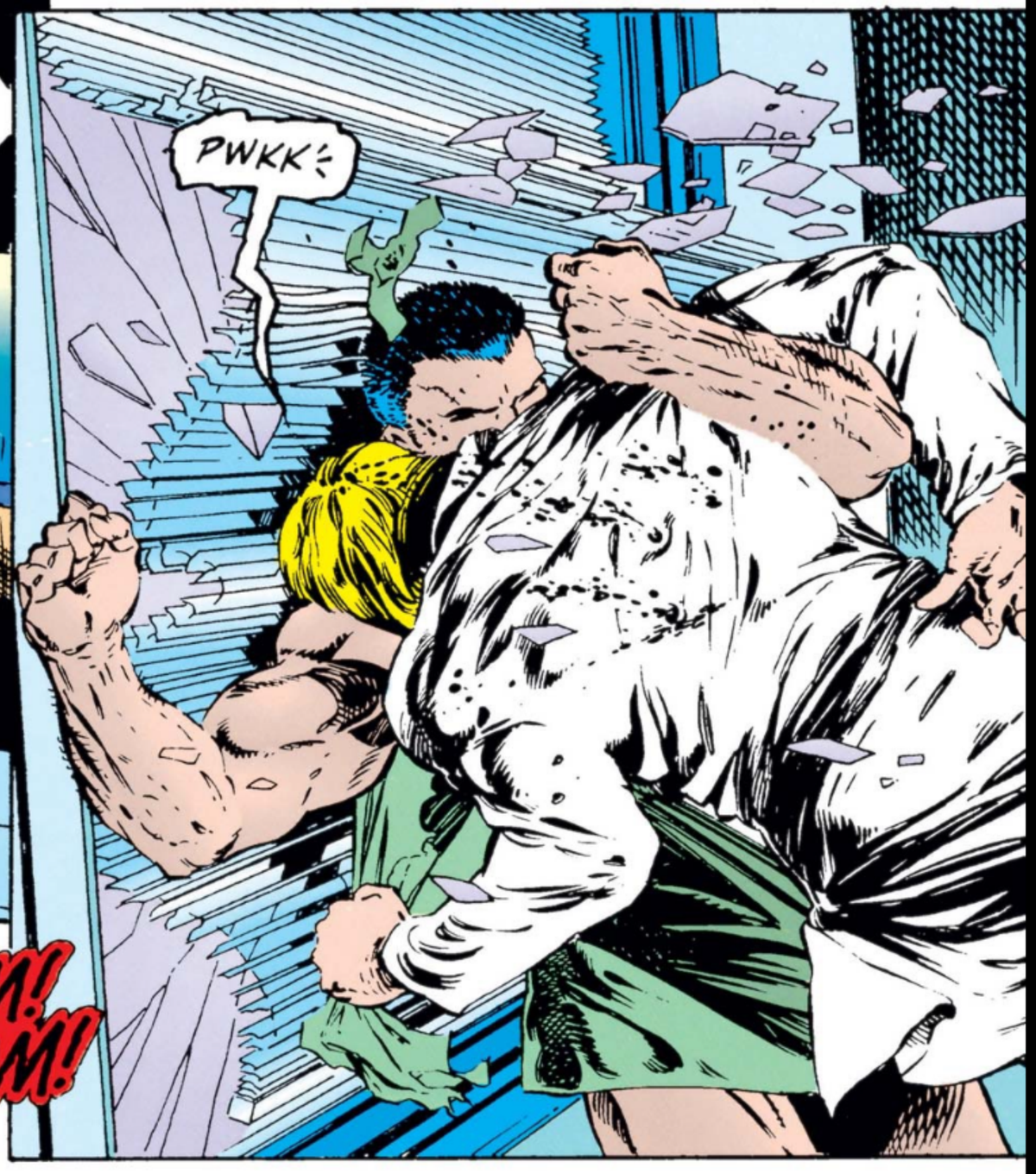
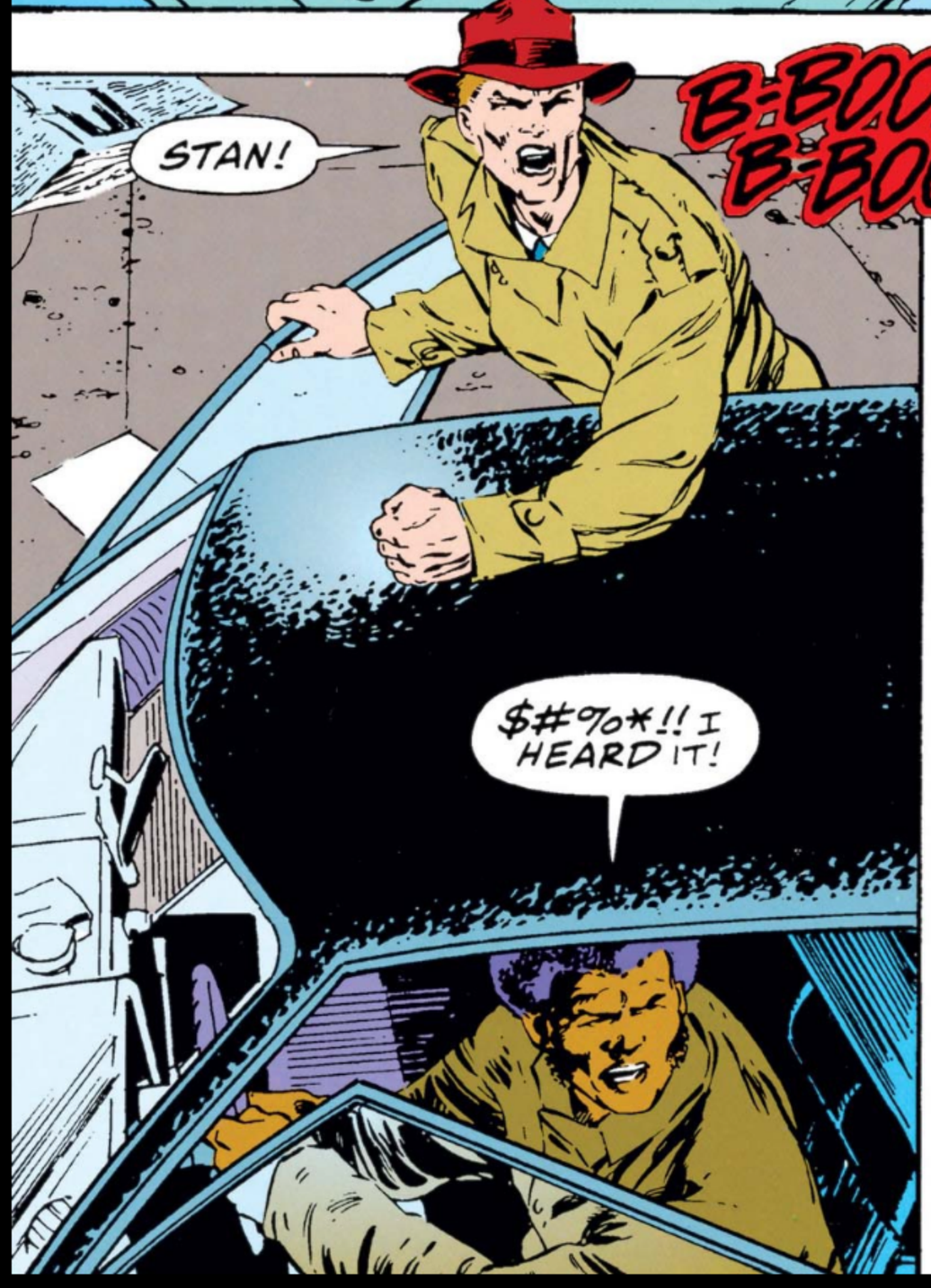

MT. SINAI, NIGHT FALLING. THE COLD AND EARLY DARKNESS OF SPRING STIFFEN THE AIR AND FROST THE STARS...
YOU WANNA GRAB A BEER ON THE WAY?
MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER
LOVE TO, STAN... BUT NO. I OUGHT TO GET HOME.
WHAT A DAY. SWEAR I'VE GOT A MIGRAINE COMING.
MOTHER O'MERCY...STILL CAN'T GET HIS FACE OUT OF MY MIND.
...maria...
I GOT YOUR MARIA RIGHT HERE, LOSER, SO PUCKER UP.
JUST DO IT! C'MON! DO IT!
UHN?
SKRRK!


PUSH
EEAA-GGNCH!
GRRAARR!
SKRTCH!
PHT!
PHT!
PHT!
OH, MAN! OH, MAN!
MURDER

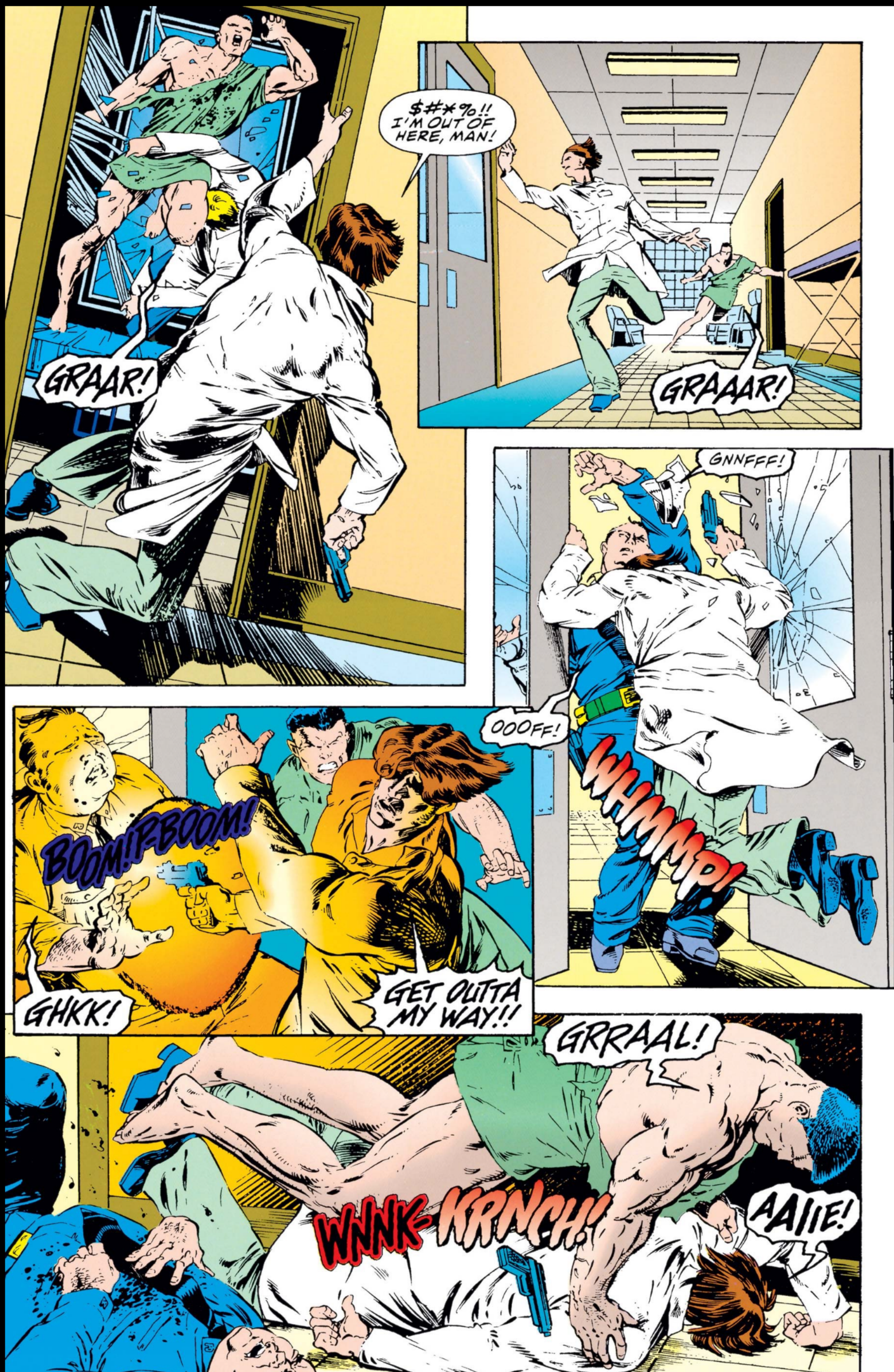
GNNKK! DO HIM! DO HIM NOW! AGH!
GRARRL!
OH, MAN!


BOOOM! BOOOM!
OH, M--!

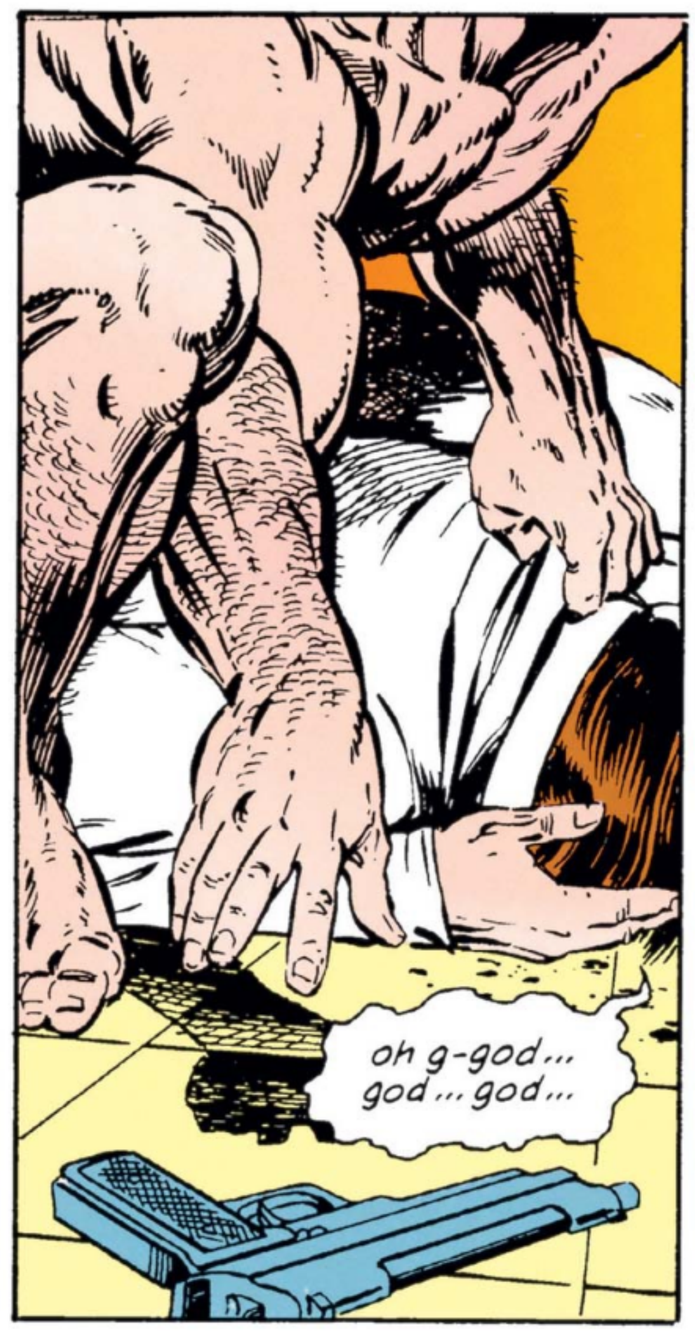

PWKK!

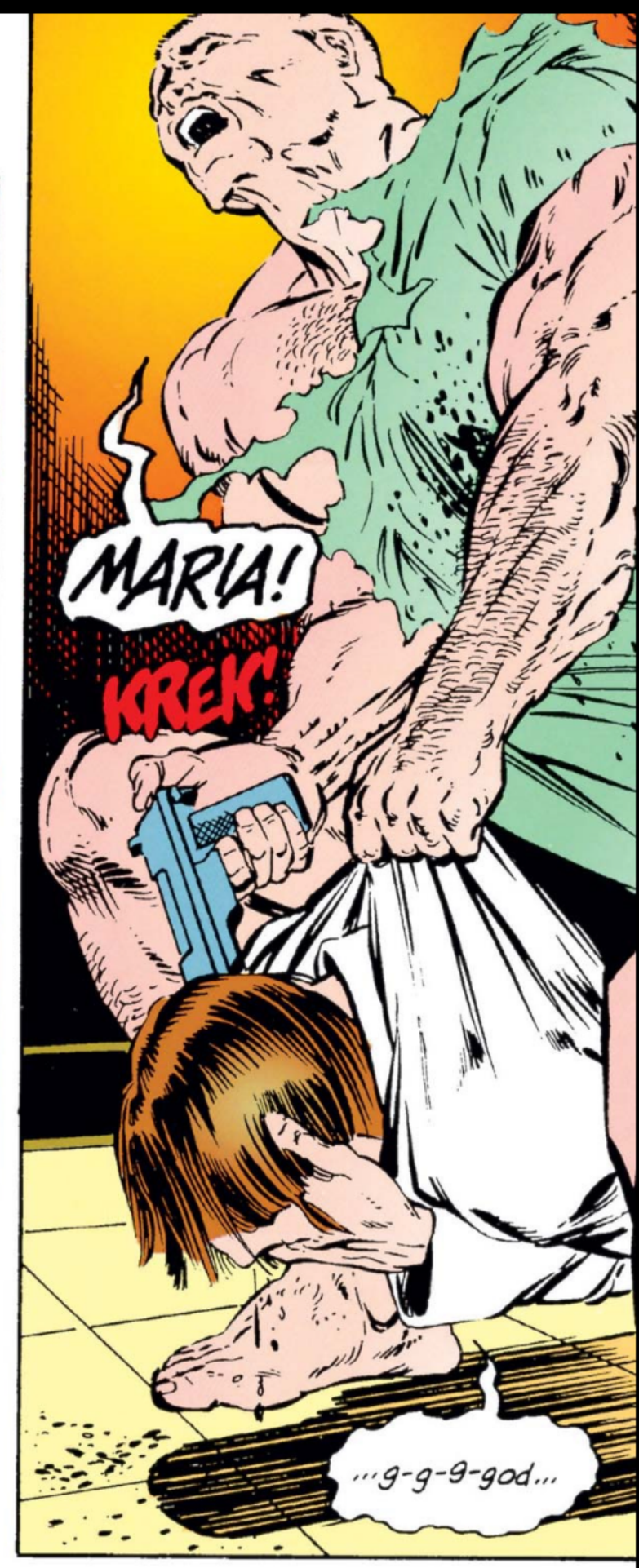

STAN!
B-BOOM! B-BOOM!
$#%*!! I HEARD IT!

JOHNNY! JOHNNY!

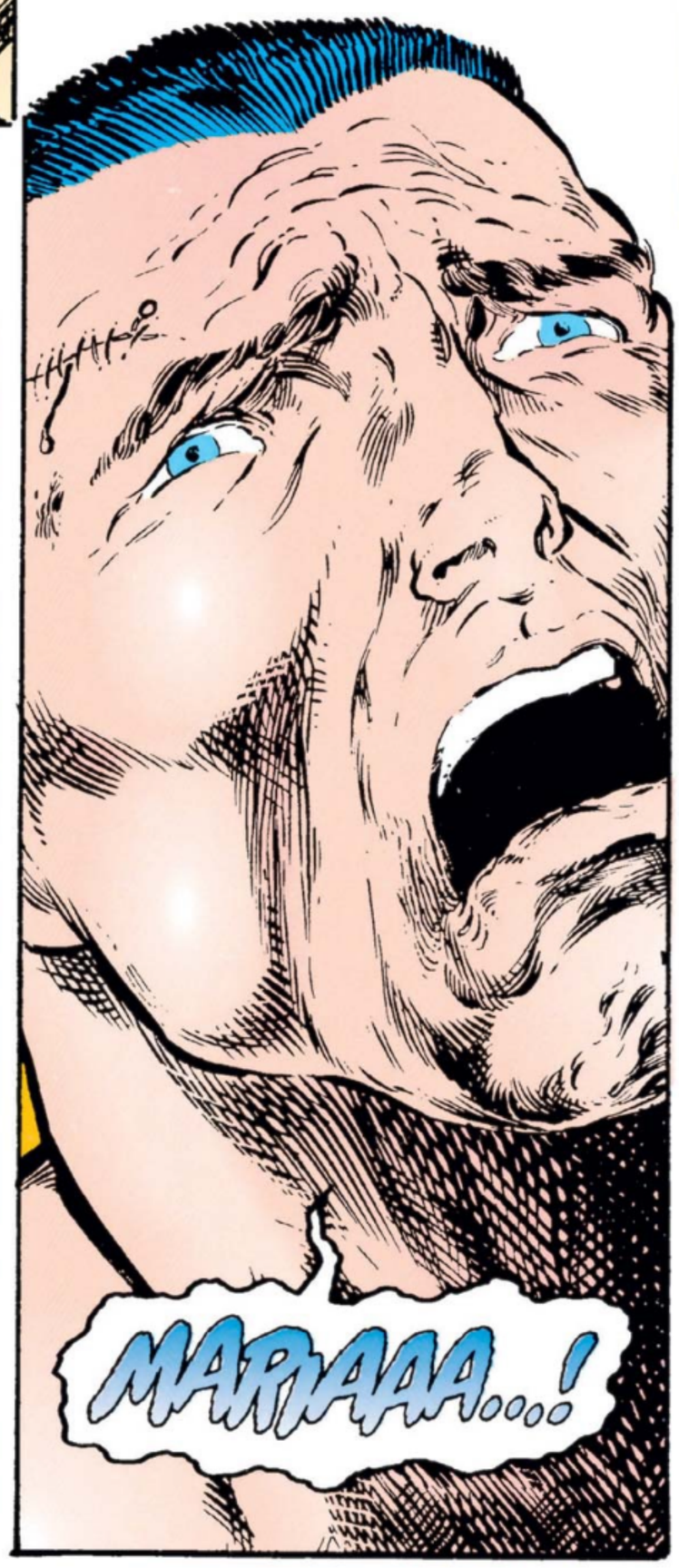

GRAAR!
$#*%!! I'M OUT OF HERE, MAN!
GRAAAR!
GNNFFF!
OOOFF!
WHMMP!
BOOM!!-BOOM!
GHKK!
GET OUTTA MY WAY!!
GRRAAL!
WNNK-KRNCH!
AAIIE!

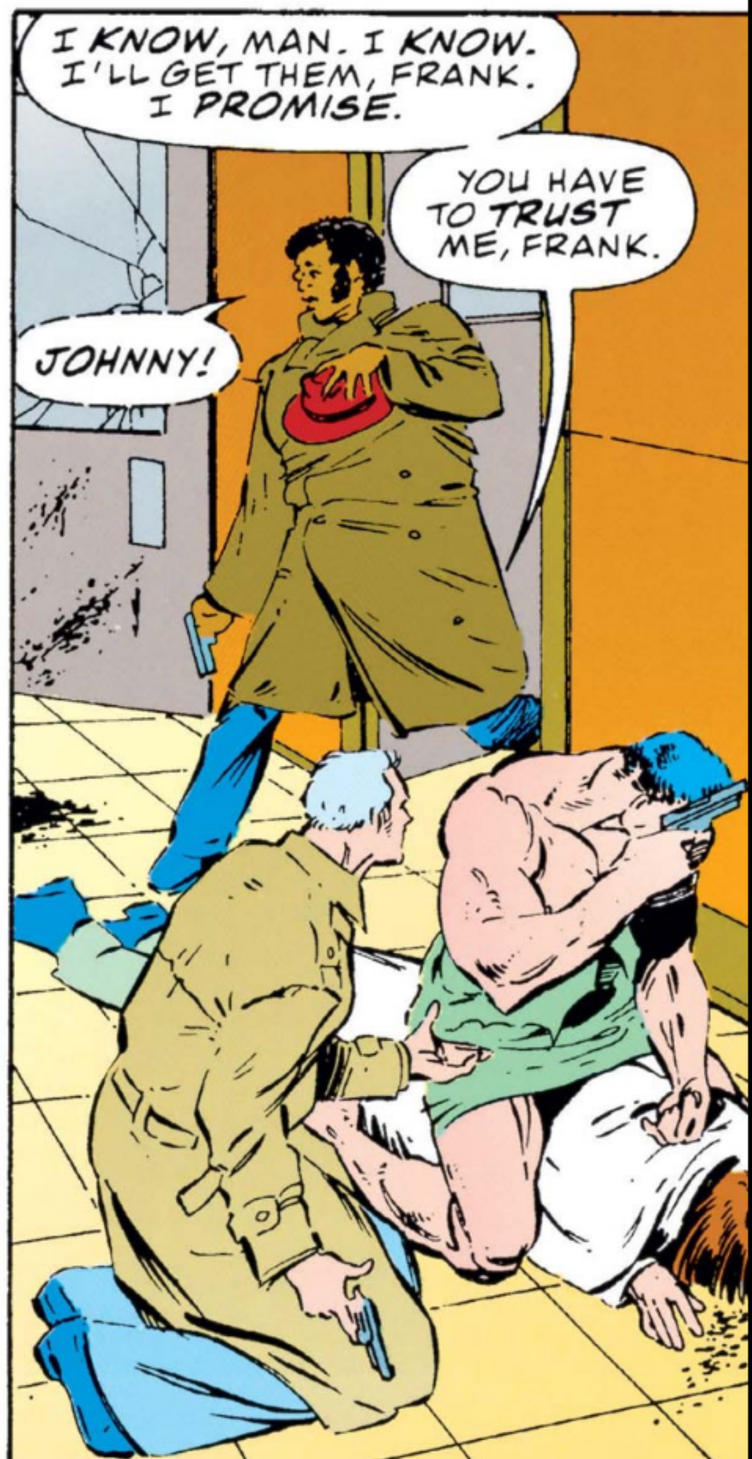
KRKK-KRKK-KRRNNGH!
GNNB-GNN! GAAAAH!

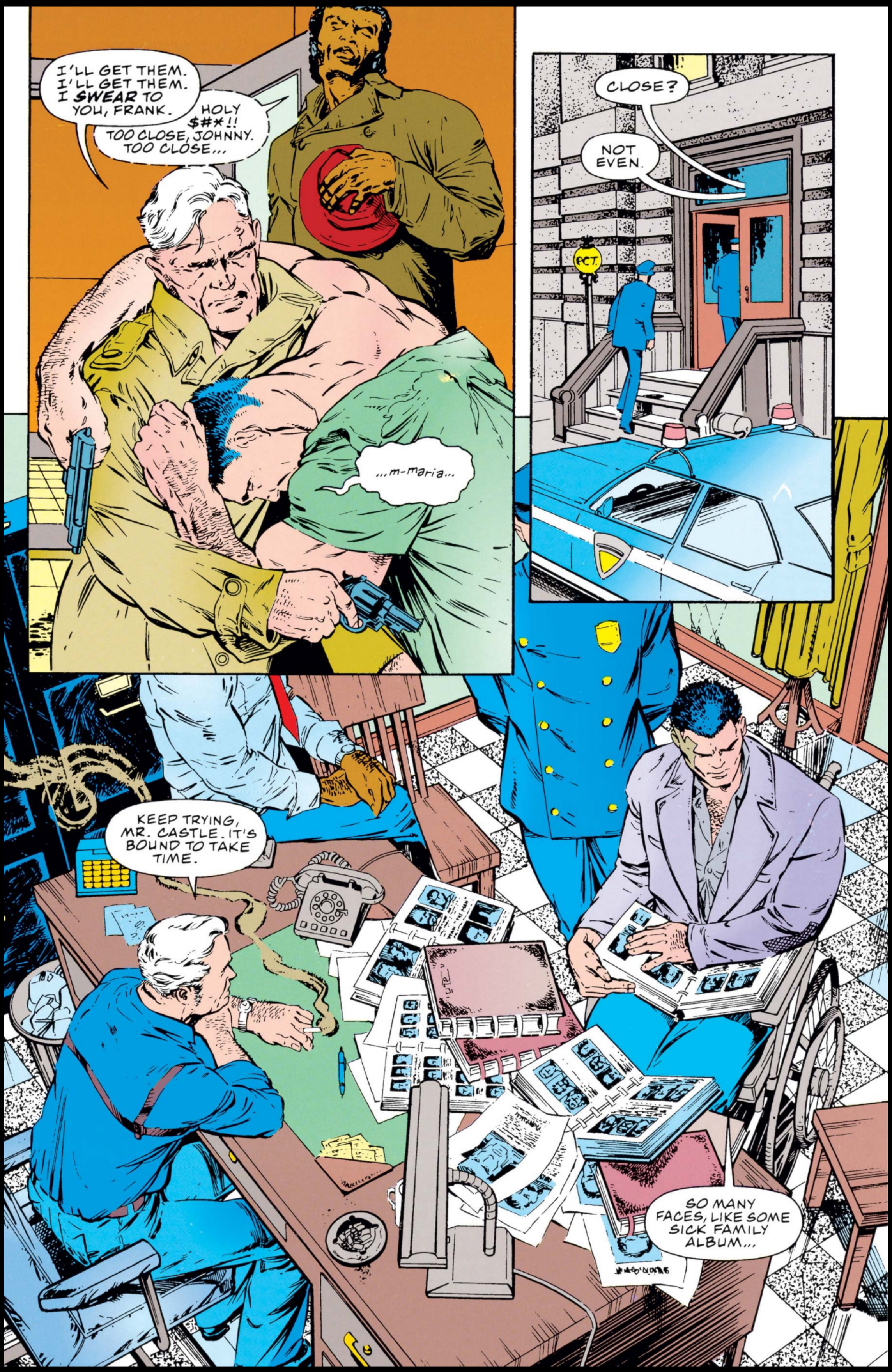

oh g-god... god... god...

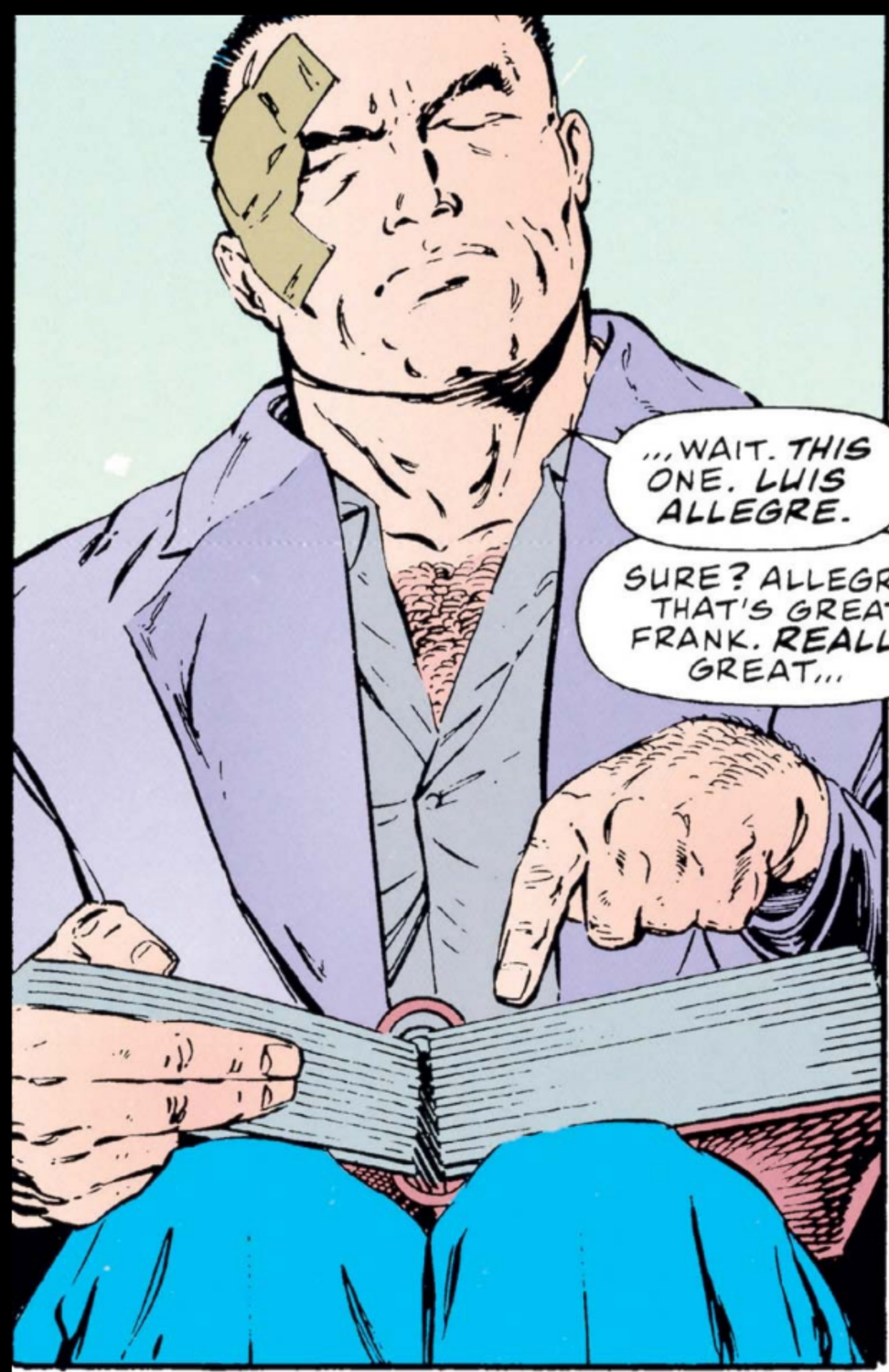

MARIA!
KREK!
...g-g-g-god...

CASTLE! FRANK CASTLE! DON'T DO IT, MAN! THROW--THE GUN--AWAY!
PLEASE, FRANK... DON'T TRASH YOUR FUTURE...


MARIAAA...!

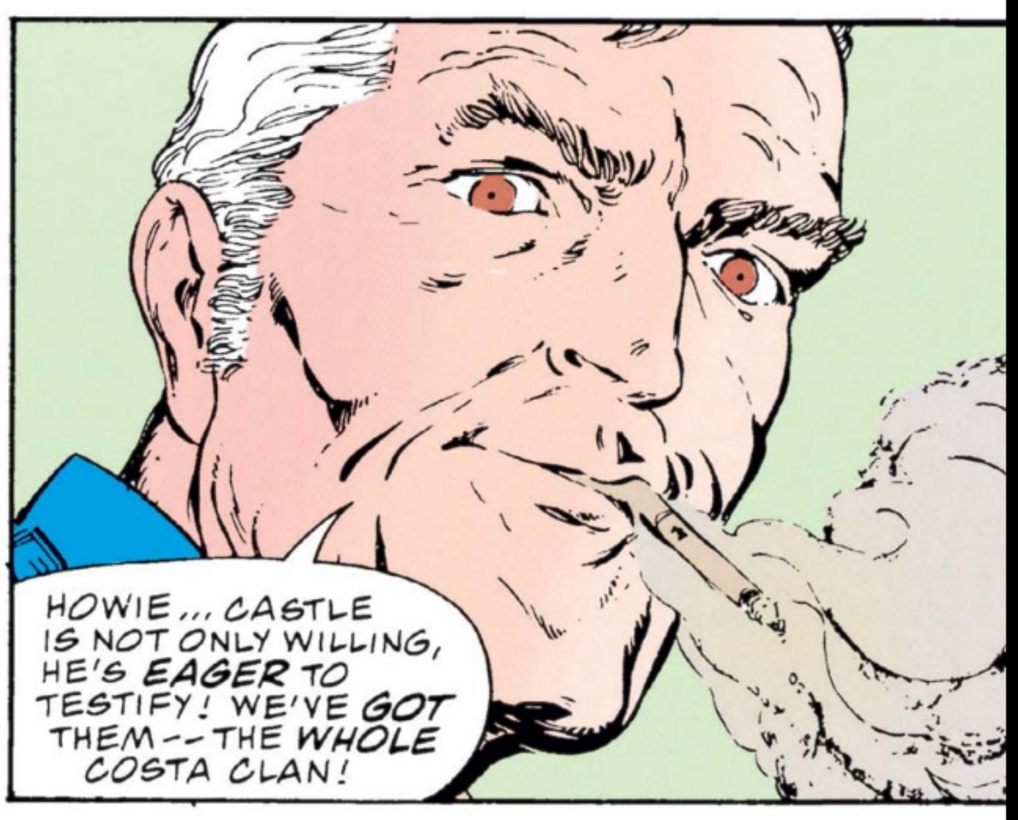

I KNOW, MAN. I KNOW. I'LL GET THEM, FRANK. I PROMISE.
YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME, FRANK.
JOHNNY!


I'LL GET THEM. I'LL GET THEM. I SWEAR TO YOU, FRANK.
HOLY $#*!! TOO CLOSE, JOHNNY. TOO CLOSE...
...m-maria...
CLOSE?
NOT EVEN.
PCT.
KEEP TRYING, MR. CASTLE. IT'S BOUND TO TAKE TIME.
SO MANY FACES, LIKE SOME SICK FAMILY ALBUM...

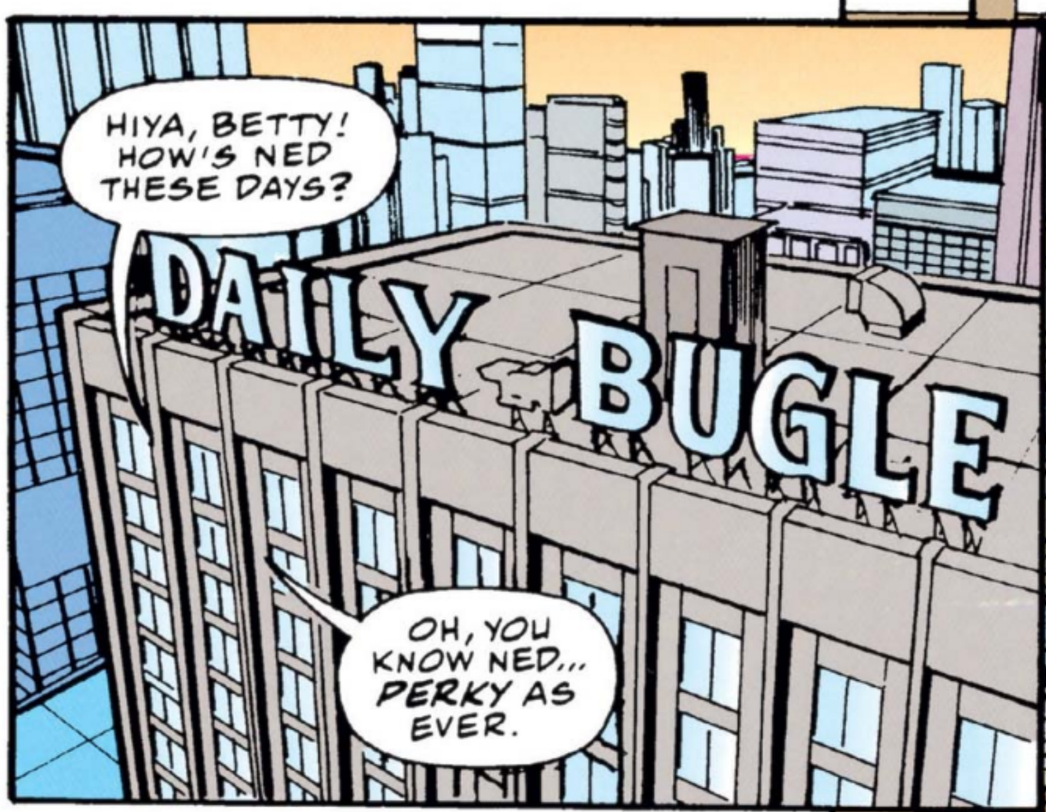

...WAIT. THIS ONE. LUIS ALLEGRE.
SURE? ALLEGRE... THAT'S GREAT, FRANK. REALLY GREAT...

...YEAH, CAPTAIN... ALLEGRE.
CAPT.
HOWARD FURNISS
AND HANNIGAN, AND SKINNER, AND KOLSKY. AND GET THIS...

...CASTLE IDENTIFIES THE FIFTH MAN AS BRUNO COSTA.
MOTHER O' MERCY, HOWIE! THE BROTHER HIMSELF, PLUS FOUR KNOWN ASSOCIATES... NOT TO MENTION MAURICE HOWLES, THE JERK WHO TOOK A POT AT CASTLE IN MOUNT SINAI.
HE'S GOT A COSTA-RELATED SHEET AS LONG AS YOUR FRONT LAWN!

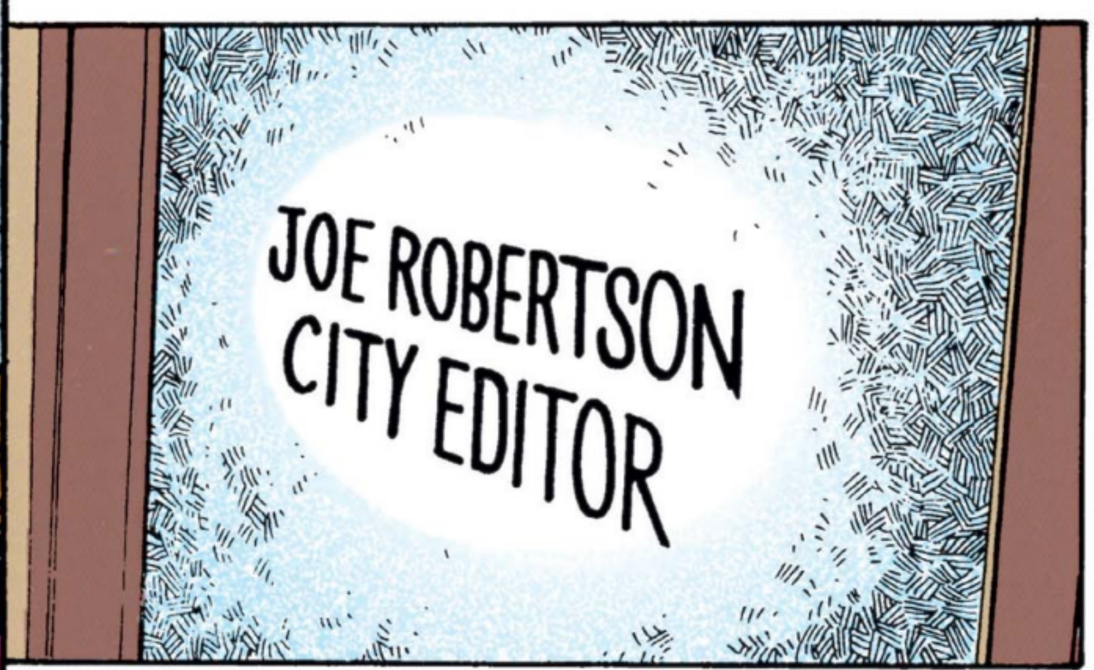

HOWIE... CASTLE IS NOT ONLY WILLING, HE'S EAGER TO TESTIFY! WE'VE GOT THEM--THE WHOLE COSTA CLAN!

MY, MY, JOHN.
THIS IS REALLY SOME-THING.


HIYA, BETTY! HOW'S NED THESE DAYS?
DAILY BUGLE
OH, YOU KNOW NED... PERKY AS EVER.

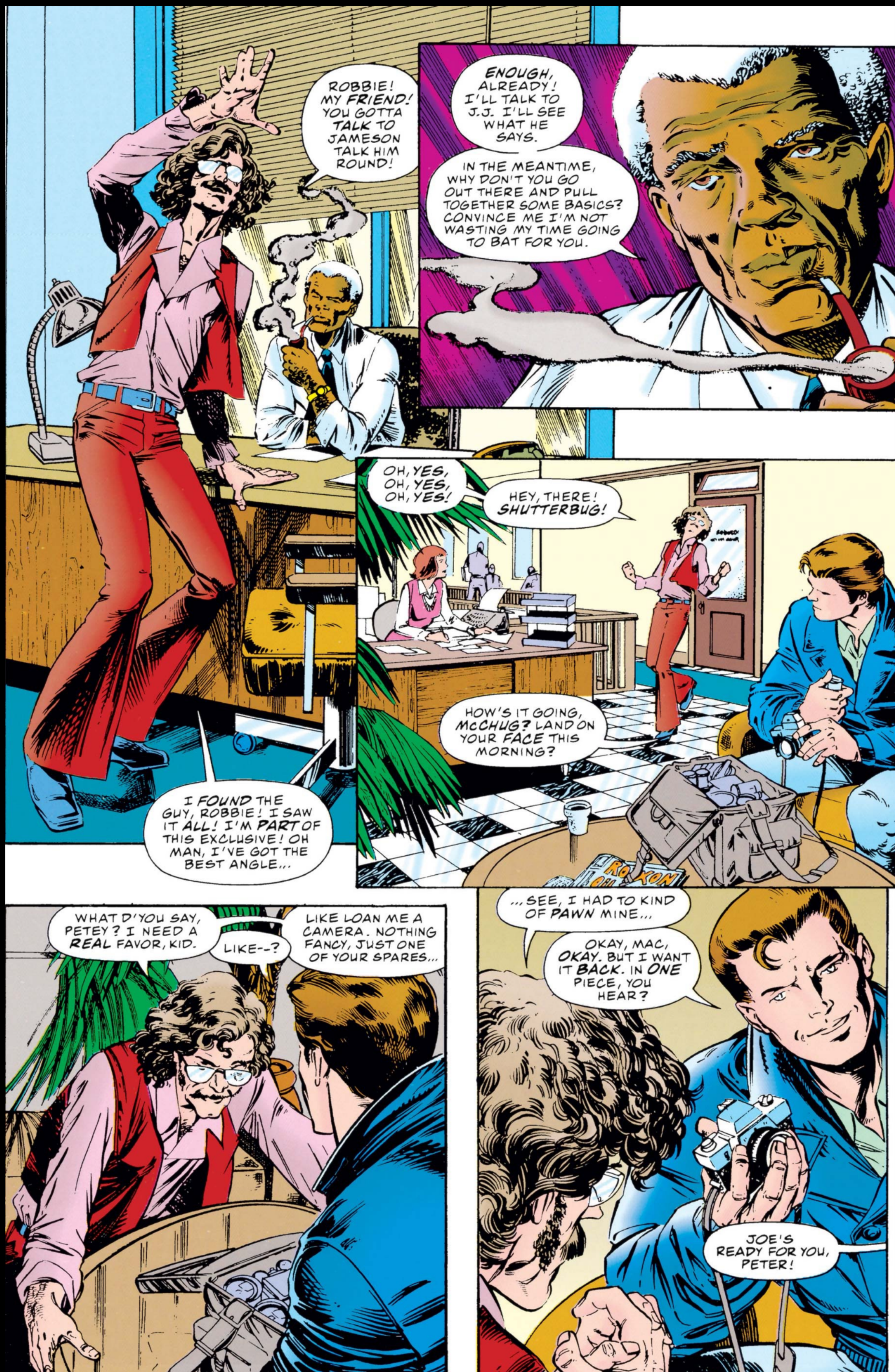
SO, IS JOE FREE?
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT. HE'S GOT THAT MCTEER IN WITH HIM.

YOU'RE KIDDING? MCTEER? HE SOBER?
IS THERE SOME WAY OF TELLING?

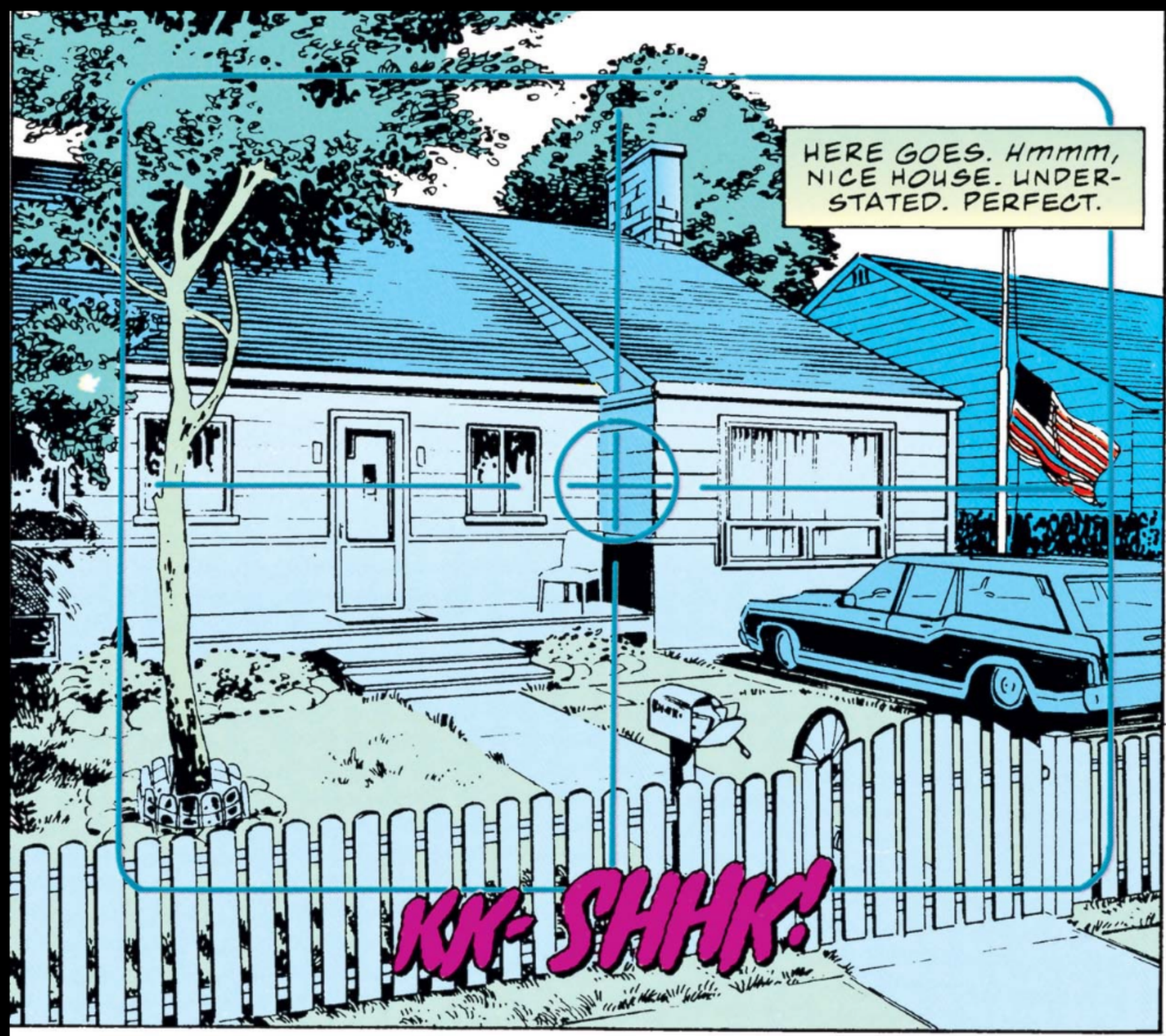

JOE ROBERTSON
CITY EDITOR

...ROBBIE, ROBBIE... THIS IS THE STORY, I'M TELLING YOU...
UH-huh.

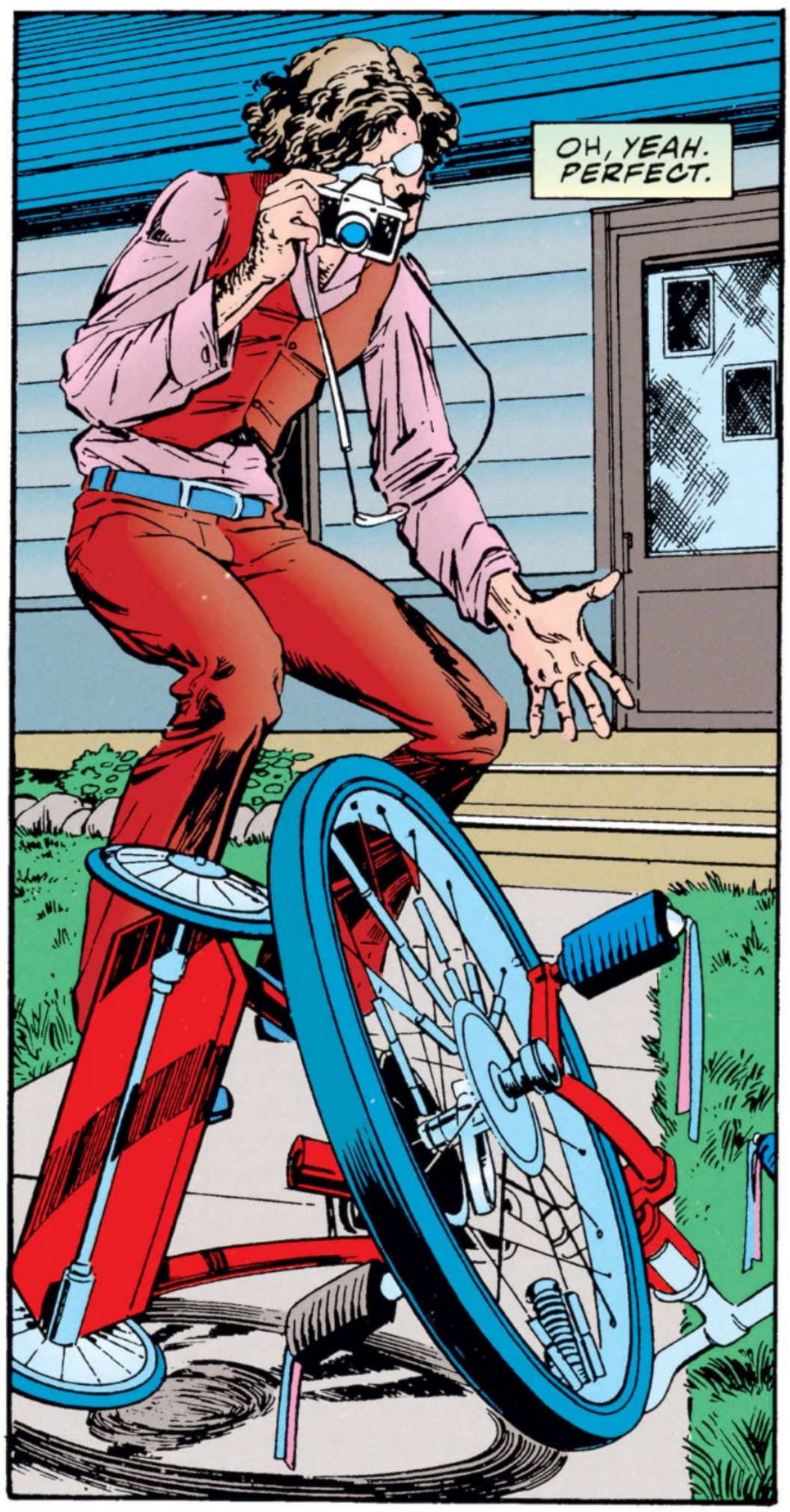
YOU HAVE TO LET ME DO THIS. SHE-SUSS, YOU HAVE TO. I'LL DO SUCH A PIECE. TRUST ME!
UH-huh.
THE OLD MAN'S CERTAINLY INTERESTED IN THE PARK SHOOTING... BUT HE'LL PROBABLY GIVE IT TO URICH.


ROBBIE! MY FRIEND! YOU GOTTA TALK TO JAMESON TALK HIM ROUND!
ENOUGH, ALREADY! I'LL TALK TO J.J. I'LL SEE WHAT HE SAYS.
IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT THERE AND PULL TOGETHER SOME BASICS? CONVINCE ME I'M NOT WASTING MY TIME GOING TO BAT FOR YOU.
I FOUND THE GUY, ROBBIE! I SAW IT ALL! I'M PART OF THIS EXCLUSIVE! OH MAN, I'VE GOT THE BEST ANGLE...
OH, YES, OH, YES, OH, YES!
HEY, THERE! SHUTTERBUG!
HOW'S IT GOING, MCCHUG? LAND ON YOUR FACE THIS MORNING?
WHAT D'YOU SAY, PETEY? I NEED A REAL FAVOR, KID.
LIKE--?
LIKE LOAN ME A CAMERA. NOTHING FANCY, JUST ONE OF YOUR SPARES...
...SEE, I HAD TO KIND OF PAWN MINE...
OKAY, MAC, OKAY. BUT I WANT IT BACK. IN ONE PIECE, YOU HEAR?
JOE'S READY FOR YOU, PETER!

THANKS, BETTY!
ONE PIECE, RIGHT, MCTEER?
YOU GOT IT, PETER! MAN, I LOVE YOU FOR THIS! YOU'RE A REAL HERO.
WANT COFFEE, PETER?
DOES THE QUEEN WEAR A POINTY HAT?
WHOA! HE WOULDN'T...
JOE ROBER
CITY EDIT
DID YOU SEE THAT? I SWEAR THAT CREEP TOOK FILM FROM YOUR BAG, PETER! AND RIGHT AFTER YOU'D LOANED HIM THAT CAMERA, TOO!
SOME PEOPLE...!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO ANYTHING?
BETTY... I JUST CAN'T KICK A MAN WHO'S DOWN SO LOW...


HERE GOES. HMMM, NICE HOUSE. UNDER-STATED. PERFECT.
KK-SHHK!

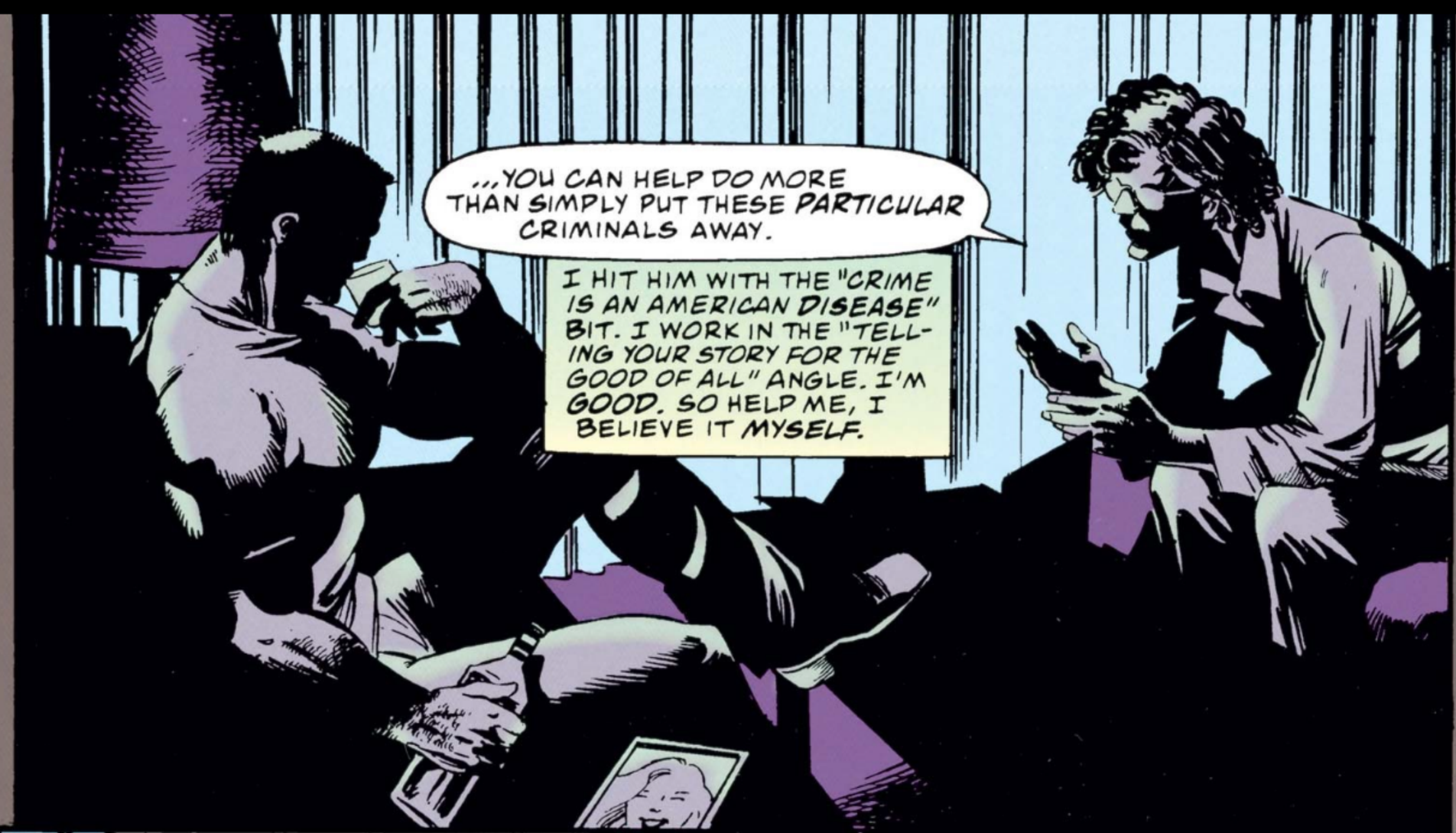
CASTLE
REAL AMERICAN INNOCENT.


OH, YEAH. PERFECT.

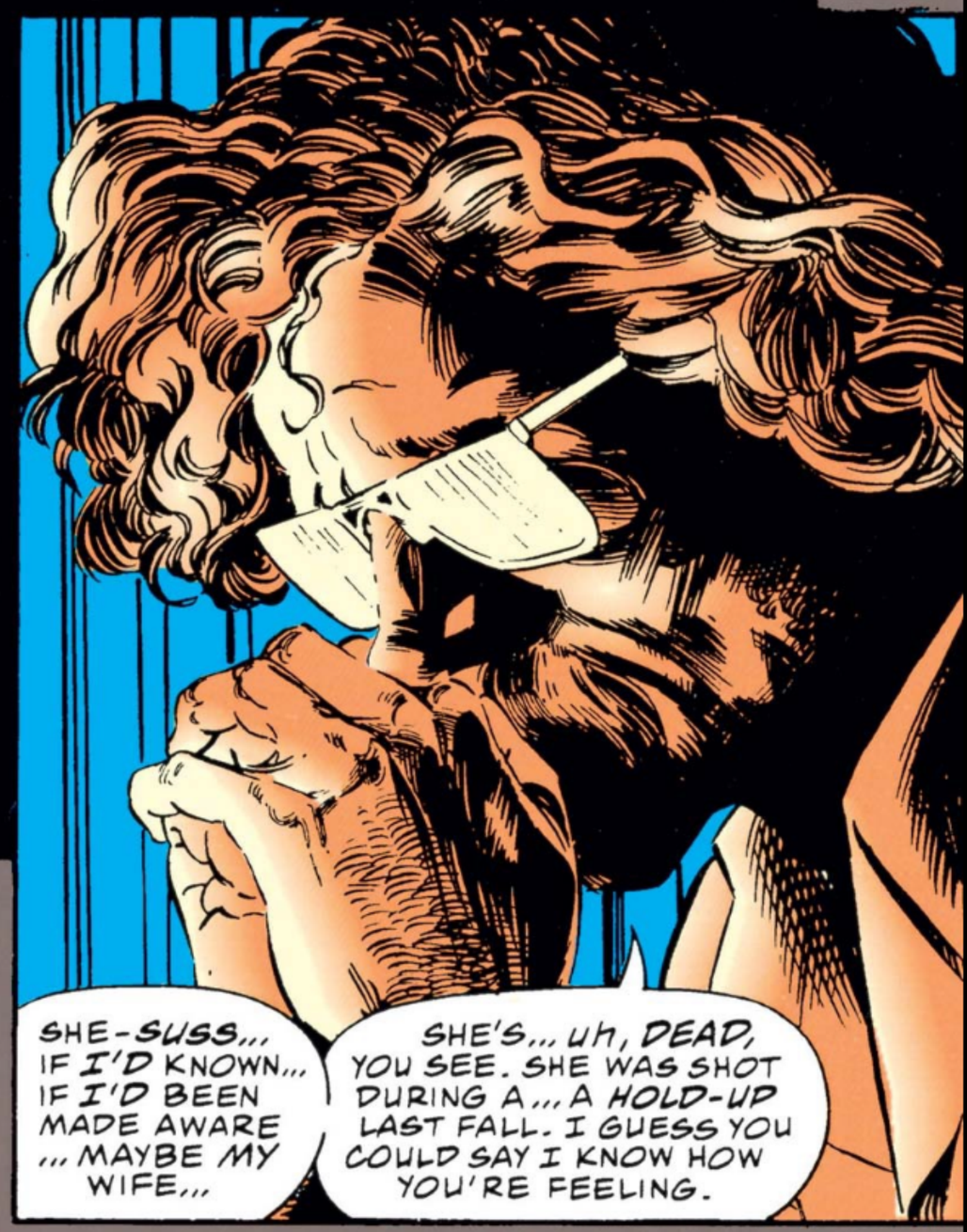
BBZZZB!

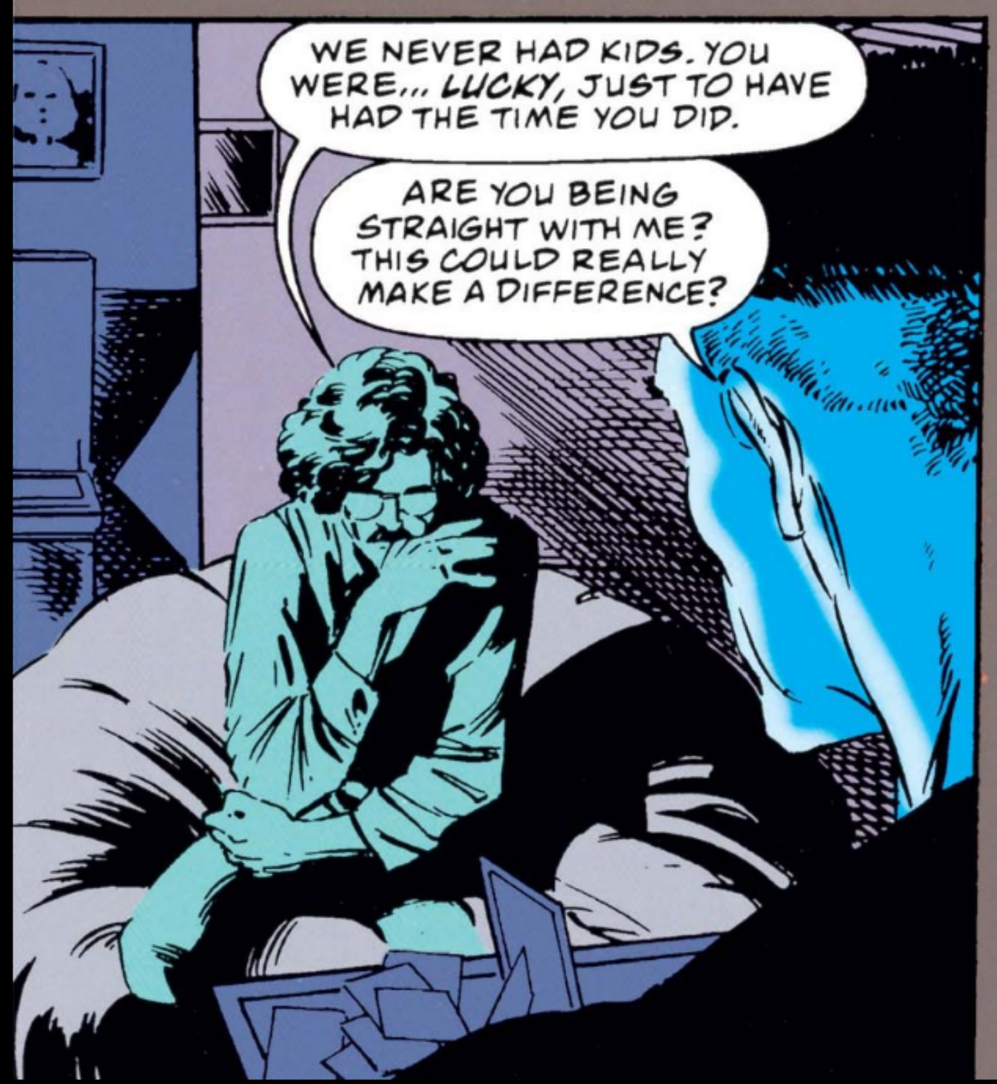
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M THE GUY WHO-- THAT IS...
...MY NAME'S--
--CAN WE TALK?

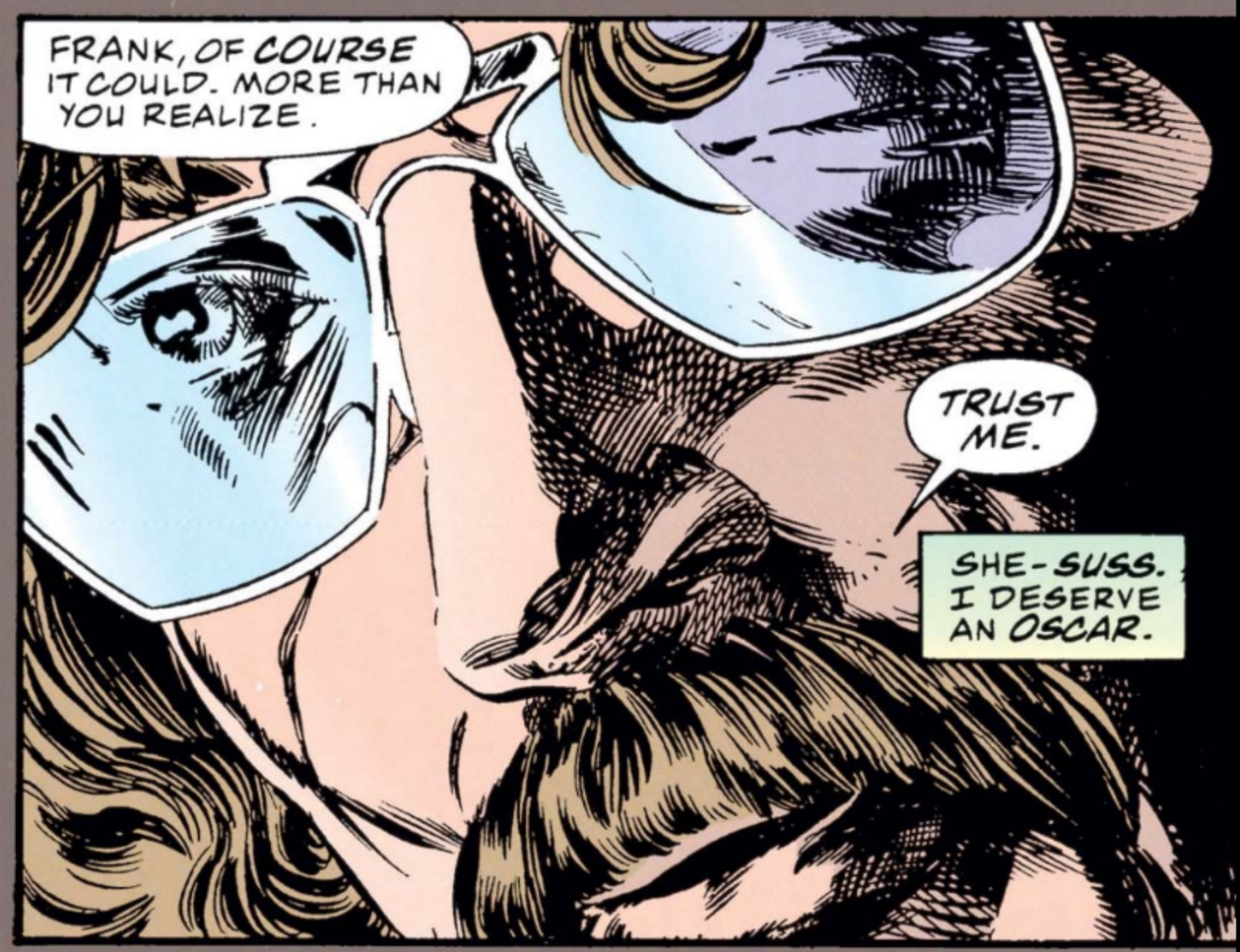
HE BROODS IN THE SHADOWS. REMINDS ME OF THOSE STIR-CRAZY LIONS IN THE BRONX ZOO. SCARY. I'M TELLING HIM ABOUT... ABOUT THAT AFTERNOON...
...TELLING HIM I WISH I COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING QUICKER.
DEATH WAS IMMEDIATE. BEING QUICKER WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED.
HIS VOICE IS LIKE COLD GLASS. I TELL HIM WHAT I DO. I TRY TO EXPLAIN HOW I COULD HELP HIM BY--
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP. I DON'T NEED THE PAPERS. IT'S ALL BEING DEALT WITH.
HE OFFERS THE SCOTCH. I'D KILL FOR A DRINK, BUT...
NO. THANKS. I DON'T.
I KNOW THE POLICE ARE HANDLING IT. JOHNNY LAVIANO AND I GO WAY BACK. I'VE WORKED WITH HIM SO MANY TIMES. HE'S A FINE COP.
HE'LL NAIL THOSE ANIMALS, NO QUESTION. BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT THE BIGGER PICTURE HERE...


...YOU CAN HELP DO MORE THAN SIMPLY PUT THESE PARTICULAR CRIMINALS AWAY.
I HIT HIM WITH THE "CRIME IS AN AMERICAN DISEASE" BIT. I WORK IN THE "TELLING YOUR STORY FOR THE GOOD OF ALL" ANGLE. I'M GOOD. SO HELP ME, I BELIEVE IT MYSELF.

PEOPLE'D BE MORE CAREFUL. THEY'D BE AWARE, FRANK... YOU DON'T MIND ME CALLING YOU THAT, DO YOU?
hmmf.
WELL, FRANK, SHARING YOUR TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE MIGHT JUST SAVE LIVES.

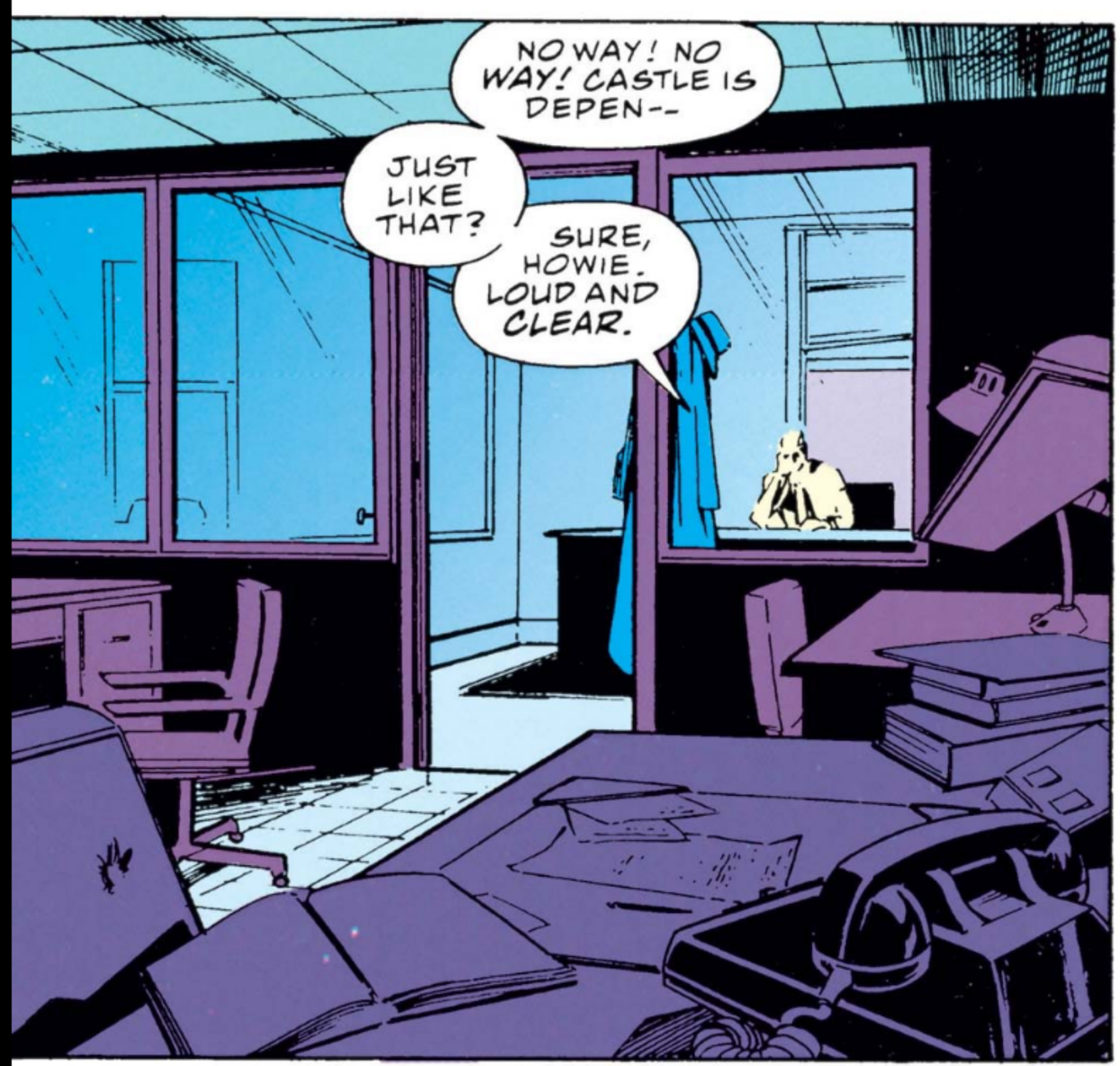

SHE-SUSS... IF I'D KNOWN... IF I'D BEEN MADE AWARE ... MAYBE MY WIFE...
SHE'S... uh, DEAD, YOU SEE. SHE WAS SHOT DURING A... A HOLD-UP LAST FALL. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I KNOW HOW YOU'RE FEELING.

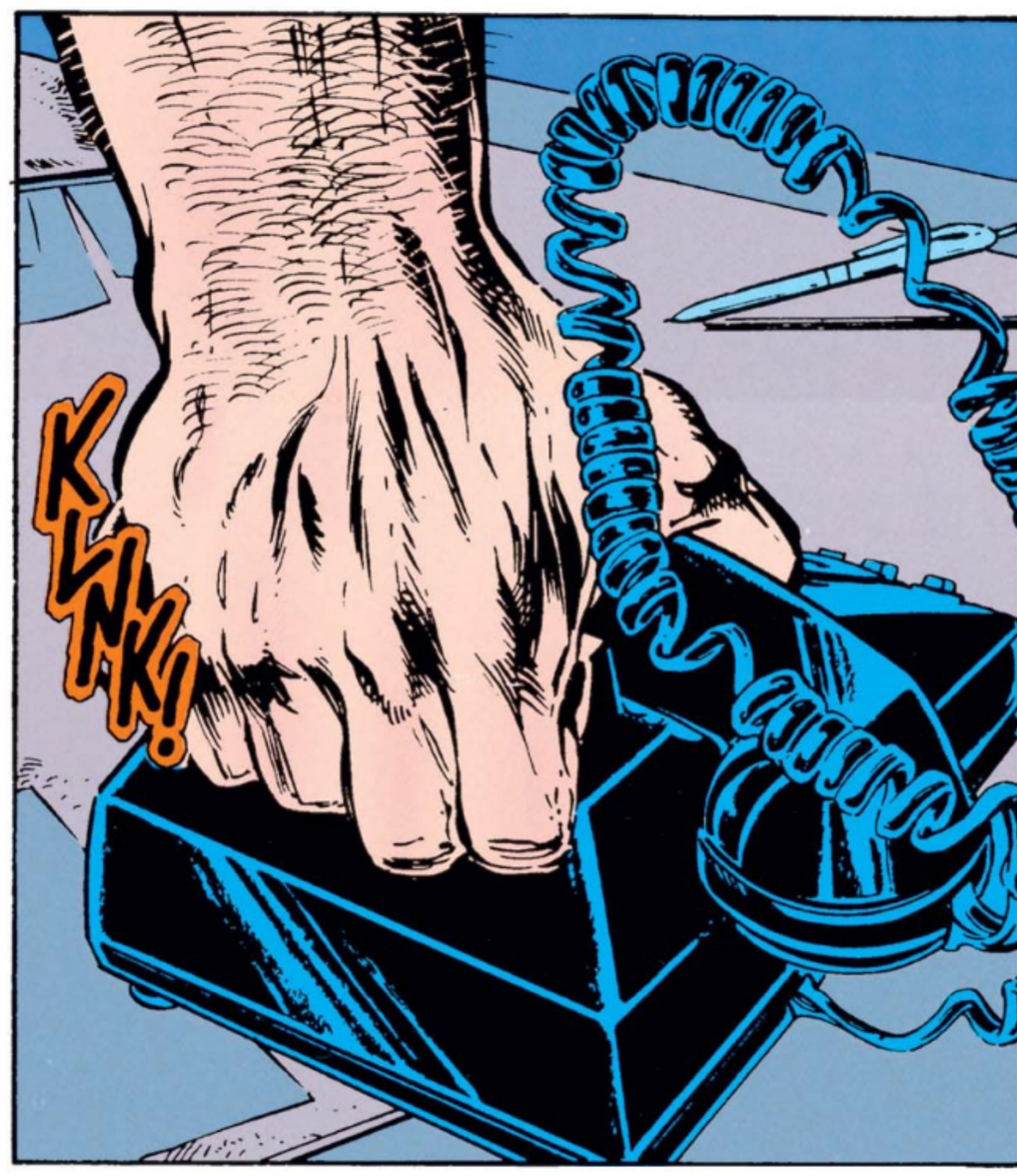

WE NEVER HAD KIDS. YOU WERE... LUCKY, JUST TO HAVE HAD THE TIME YOU DID.
ARE YOU BEING STRAIGHT WITH ME? THIS COULD REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?


FRANK, OF COURSE IT COULD. MORE THAN YOU REALIZE.
TRUST ME.
SHE-SUSS. I DESERVE AN OSCAR.

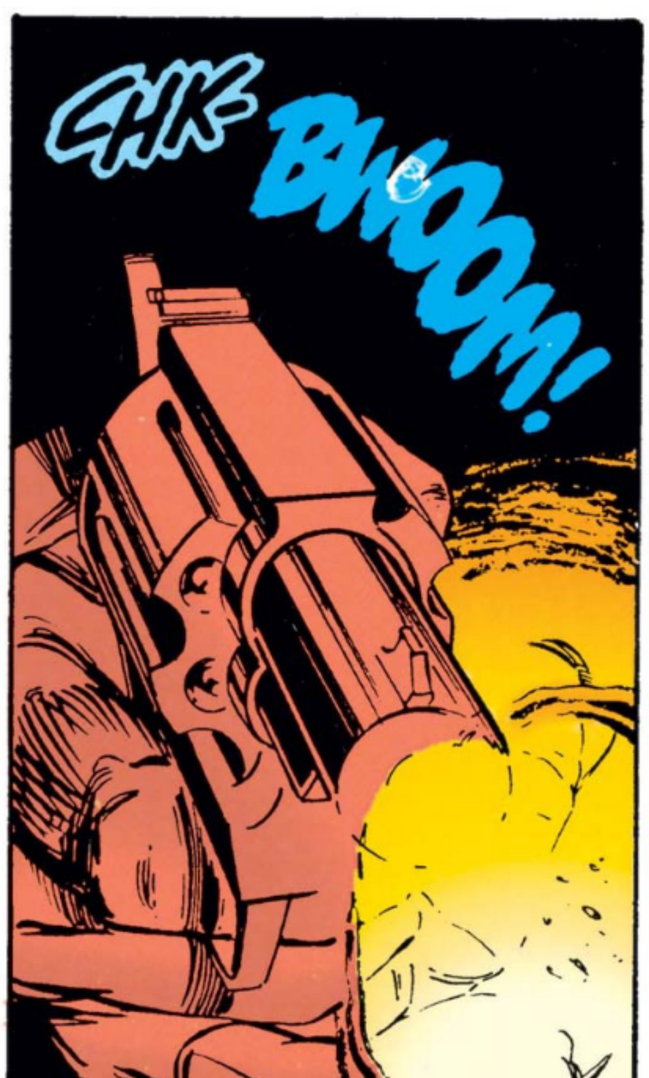
YES, BUT--
I CAN APPRECIATE--

NO! THAT'S BULL--
HOW CAN YOU S--


NO WAY! NO WAY! CASTLE IS DEPEN--
JUST LIKE THAT?
SURE, HOWIE. LOUD AND CLEAR.

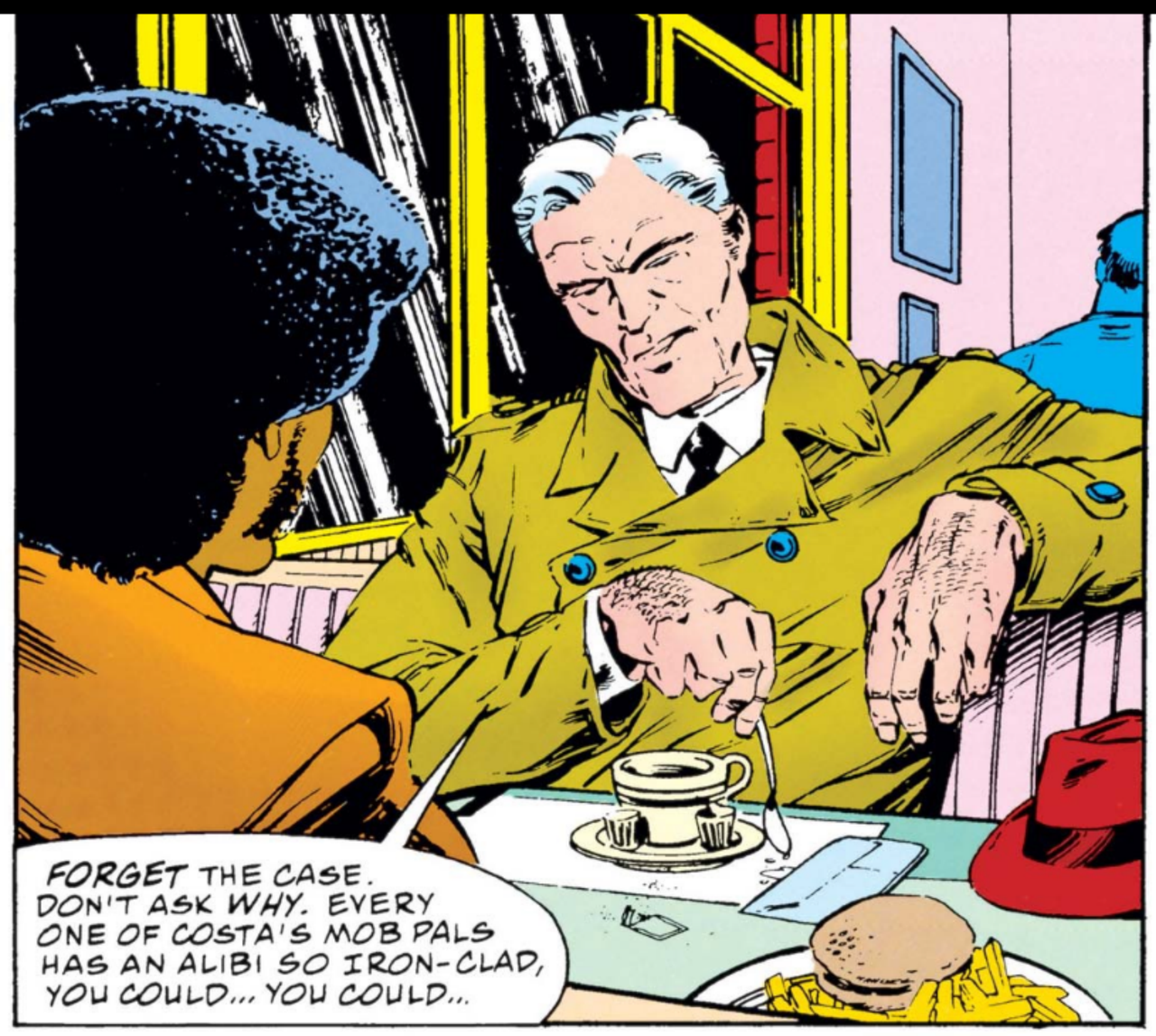

KLNK!

SWEET MOTHER OF MERCY.
NIXON
CERBERUS
PREPARED FISCAL REPORT
WOODWARD & BERNSTEIN


CHK-
BLOOM!

HEY, JOHNNY! COME TO GET YOUR LOUSY AVERAGE UP?
JOHNNY?
COFFEE BREAK, STAN.

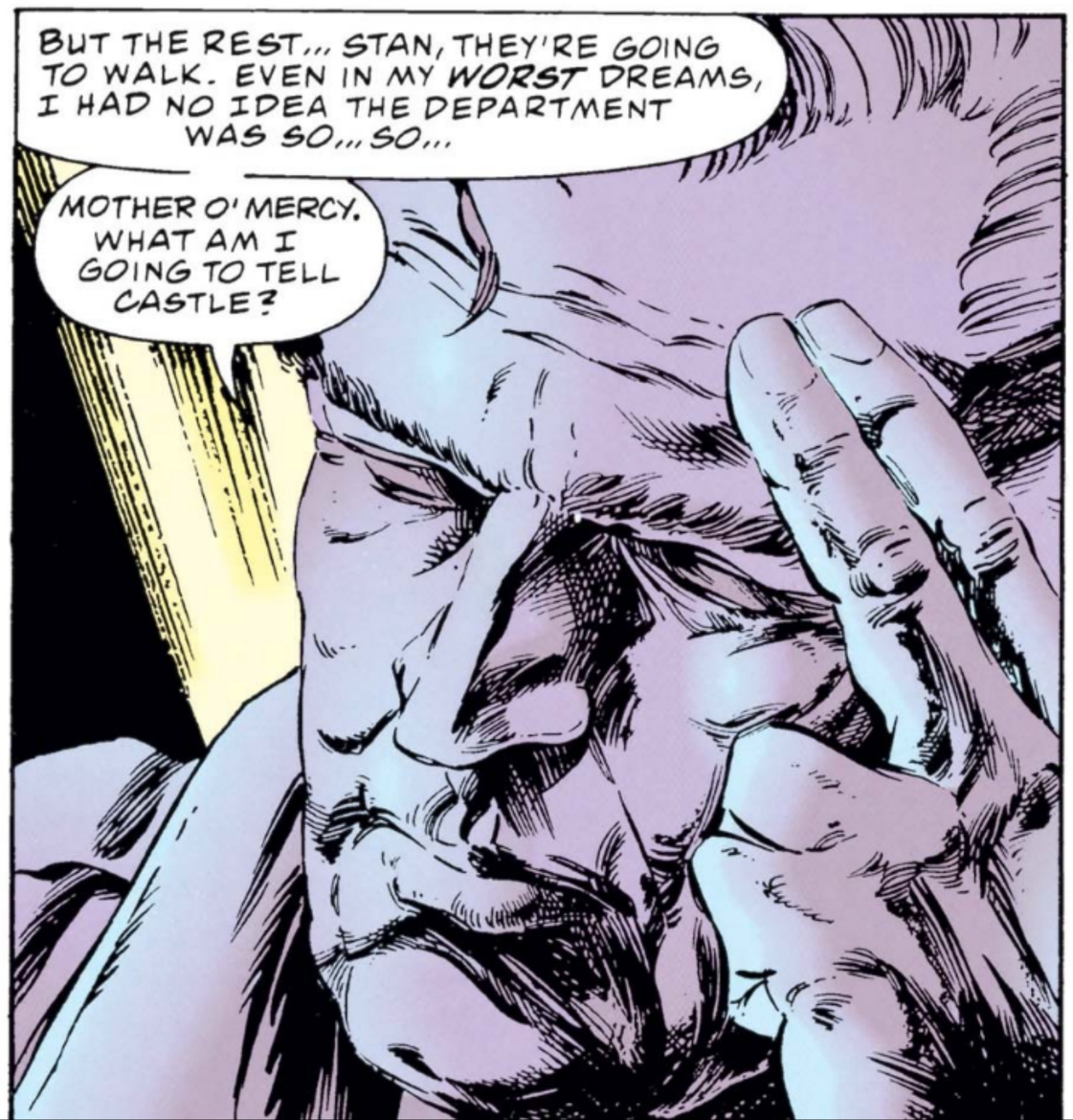
IT'S A JOKE, RIGHT?
YOU SEE ME LAUGHING?
IT CAME DOWN FROM SO HIGH UP, THERE WAS SNOW ON IT.


FORGET THE CASE. DON'T ASK WHY. EVERY ONE OF COSTA'S MOB PALS HAS AN ALIBI SO IRON-CLAD, YOU COULD... YOU COULD...

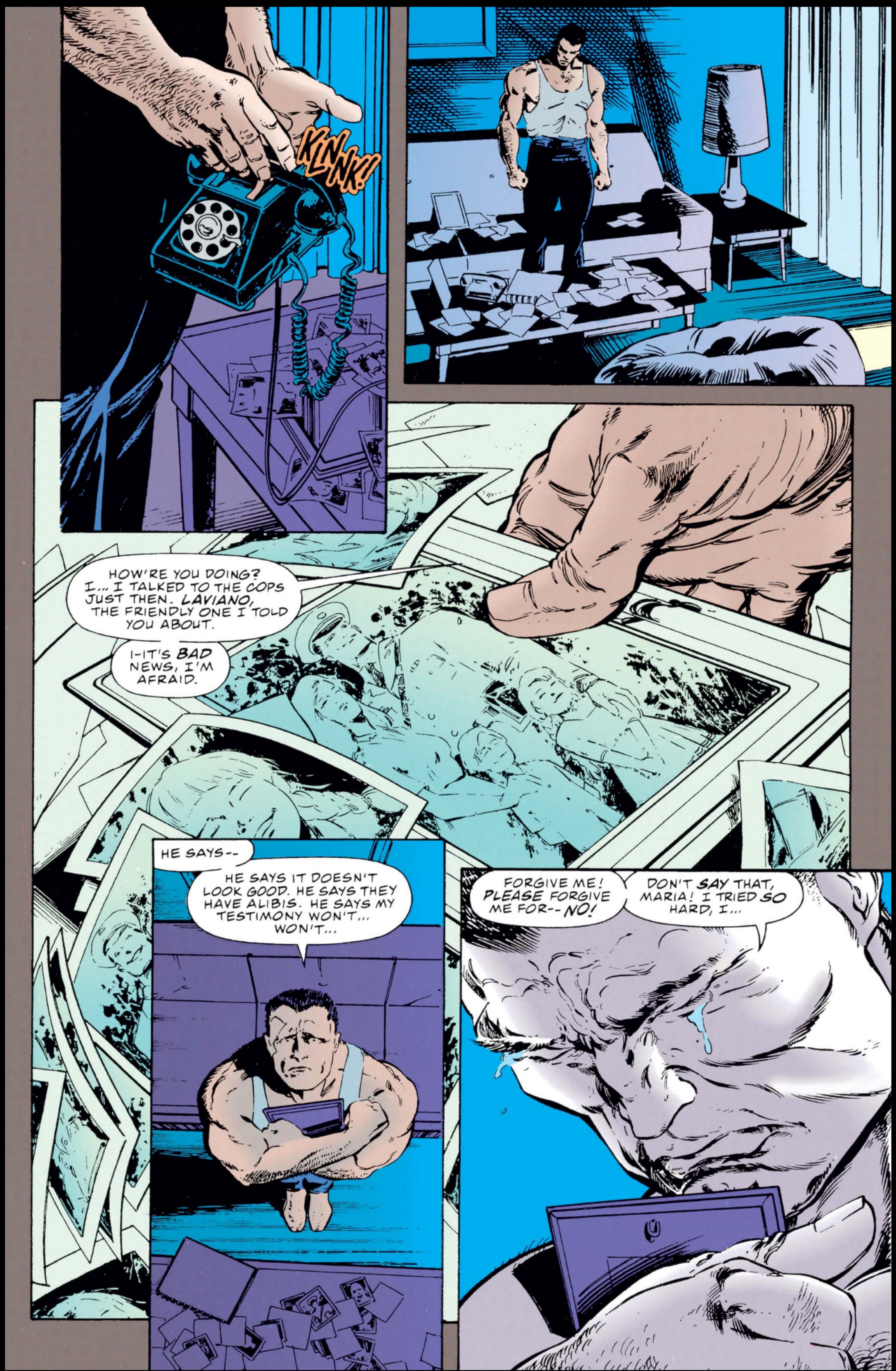
TAKE A BULLET WEARING ONE?
YOU'RE A POET, WITTS.

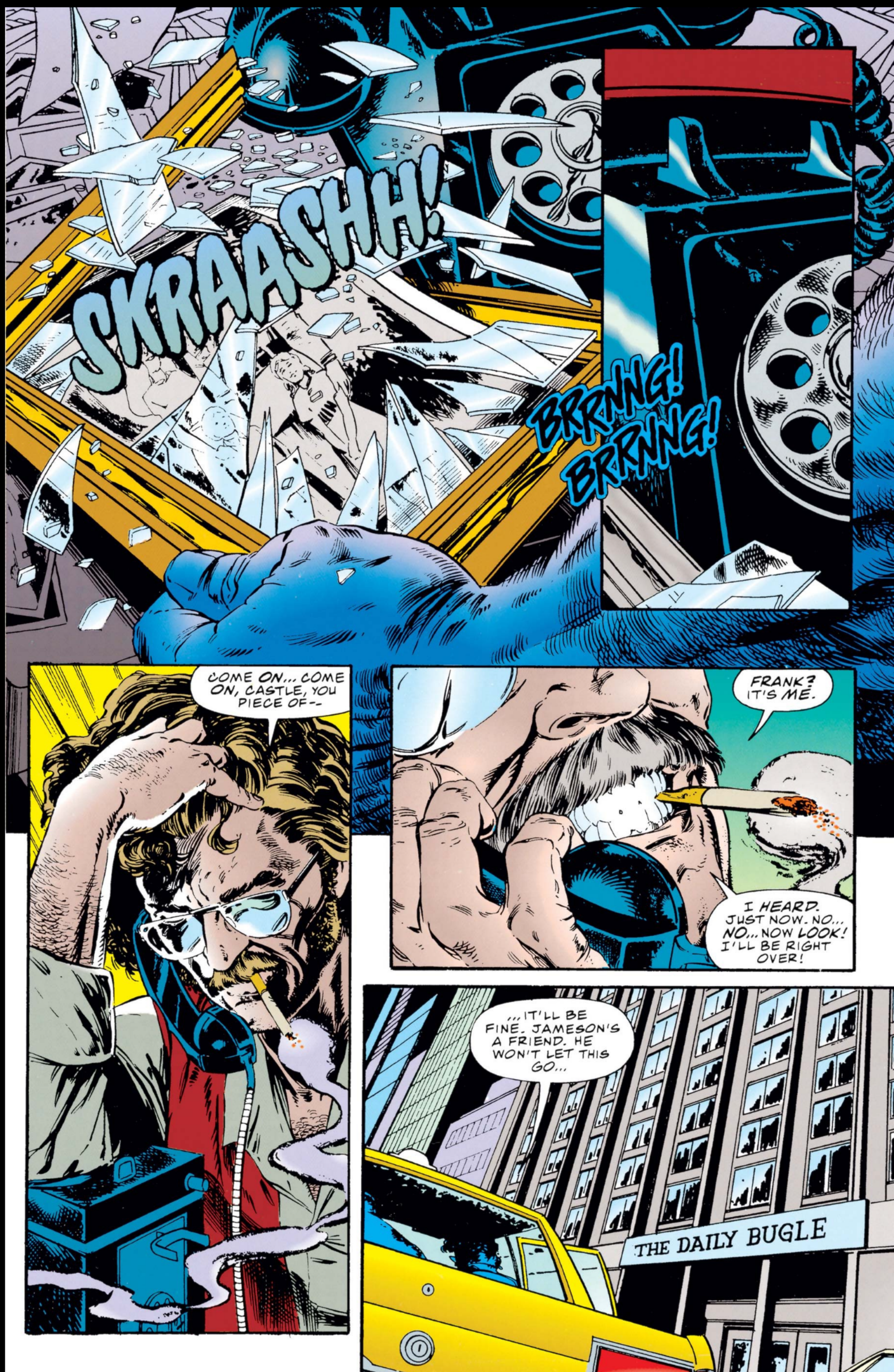
WHAT ABOUT HOWLES? WE'VE GOT HIM COLD. ATTEMPTED ON CASTLE, AND MURDER ONE ON WEISS AND THAT APE PARTNER OF HIS.
THE COSTAS ARE CUTTING HIM LOOSE. DAMAGE LIMITATION. HE'S SMALL FRY AND HE'LL GO DOWN.

KLINK!

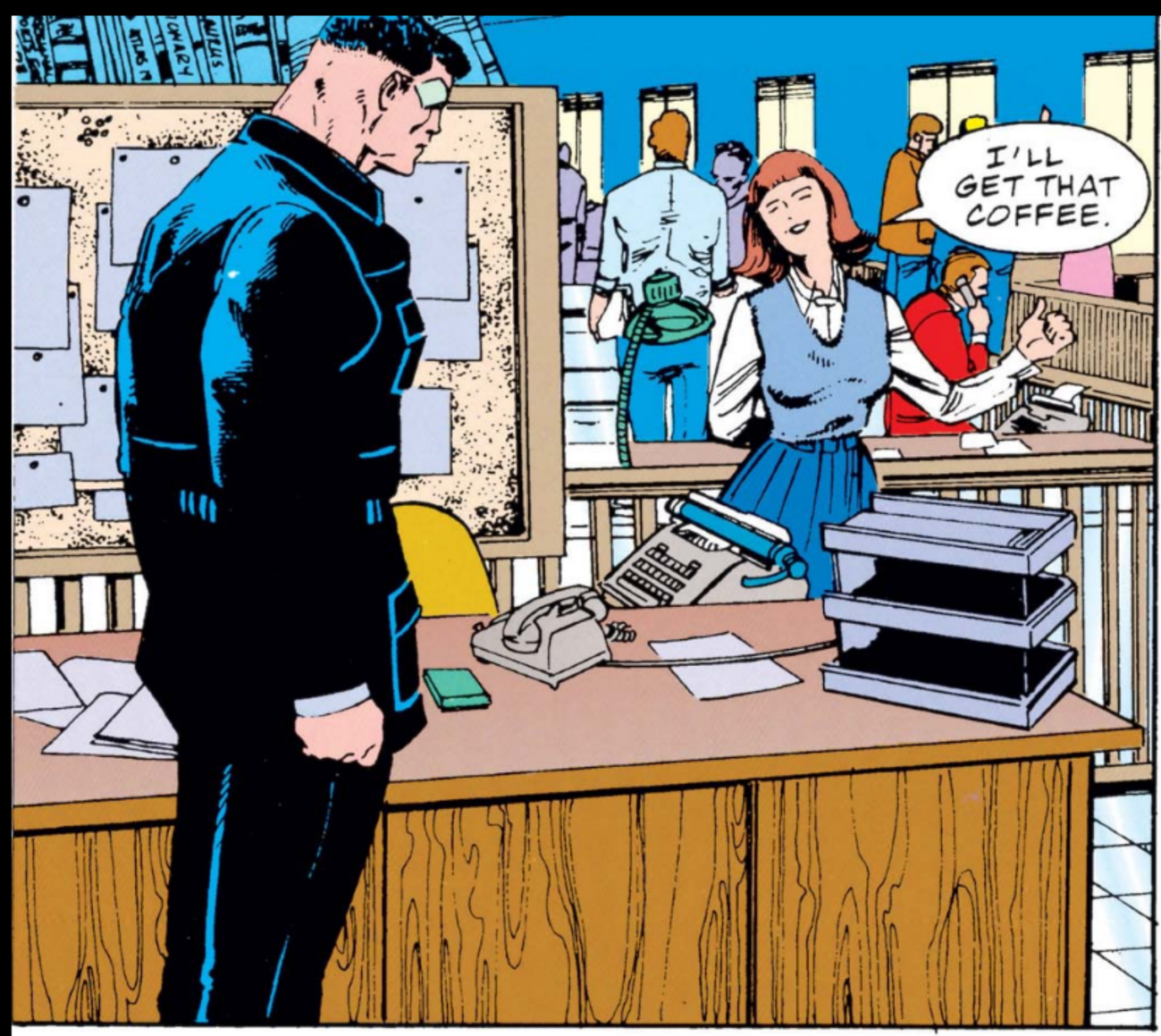

BUT THE REST... STAN, THEY'RE GOING TO WALK. EVEN IN MY WORST DREAMS, I HAD NO IDEA THE DEPARTMENT WAS SO... SO...
MOTHER O' MERCY. WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL CASTLE?

SNARF!


KLINK!
HOW'RE YOU DOING? I... I TALKED TO THE COPS JUST THEN. LAVIANO, THE FRIENDLY ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
I-IT'S BAD NEWS, I'M AFRAID.
HE SAYS--
HE SAYS IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. HE SAYS THEY HAVE ALIBIS. HE SAYS MY TESTIMONY WON'T... WON'T...
FORGIVE ME! PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR-- NO!
DON'T SAY THAT, MARIA! I TRIED SO HARD, I...


SKRAASHH!
BRRNNG! BRRNNG!
COME ON... COME ON, CASTLE, YOU PIECE OF--
FRANK? IT'S ME.
I HEARD. JUST NOW. NO... NO... NOW LOOK! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!
...IT'LL BE FINE. JAMESON'S A FRIEND. HE WON'T LET THIS GO...
THE DAILY BUGLE

...FORGET LAVIANO. HE'S A LOSER. WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS, FRANKIE. THERE COULD BE BIG MONEY IN IT.
TRUST ME. YOU TRUST ME, DON'T YOU?
...I DON'T WANT ROBERTSON! I WANT JAMESON! NOW, OKAY? RIGHT NOW!
I'LL RING THROUGH, MR. MCTEER, IF YOU'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE...
MR. JAMESON WILL SEE YOU NOW.
HOO-RAY!
MR. CASTLE, CAN I GET YOU A COFFEE? I WAS SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR--
GRNNG! GRNNG!
EXCUSE ME.
DAILY BUGLE? NO, HE'S IN WITH MR. JAMESON JUST NOW. OF COURSE I WILL.
MEN
McTeer


I'LL GET THAT COFFEE.

GRRNNG! GRRNNG!

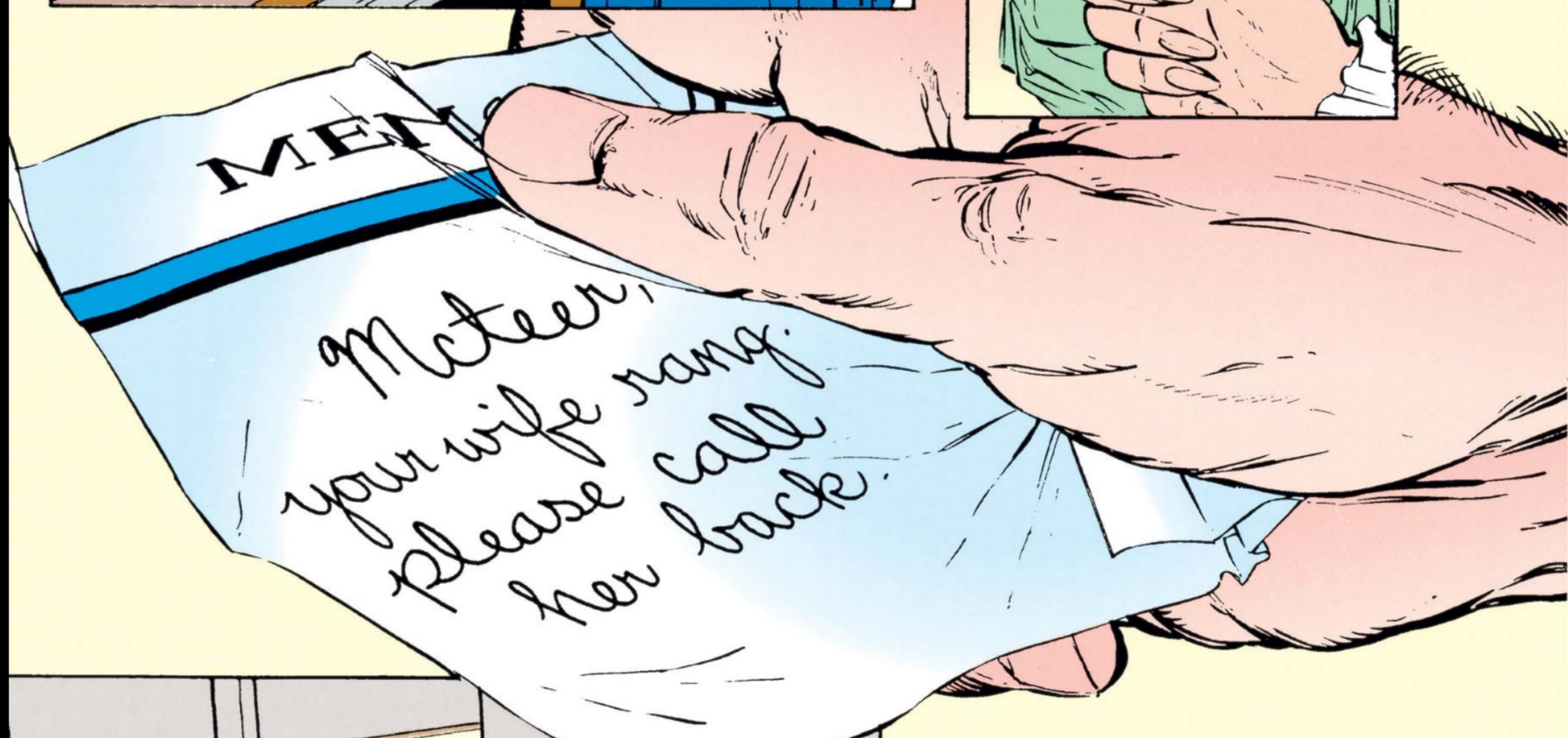
GRRNNG! GRRNNG!

GRRNNG! GRRNNG!

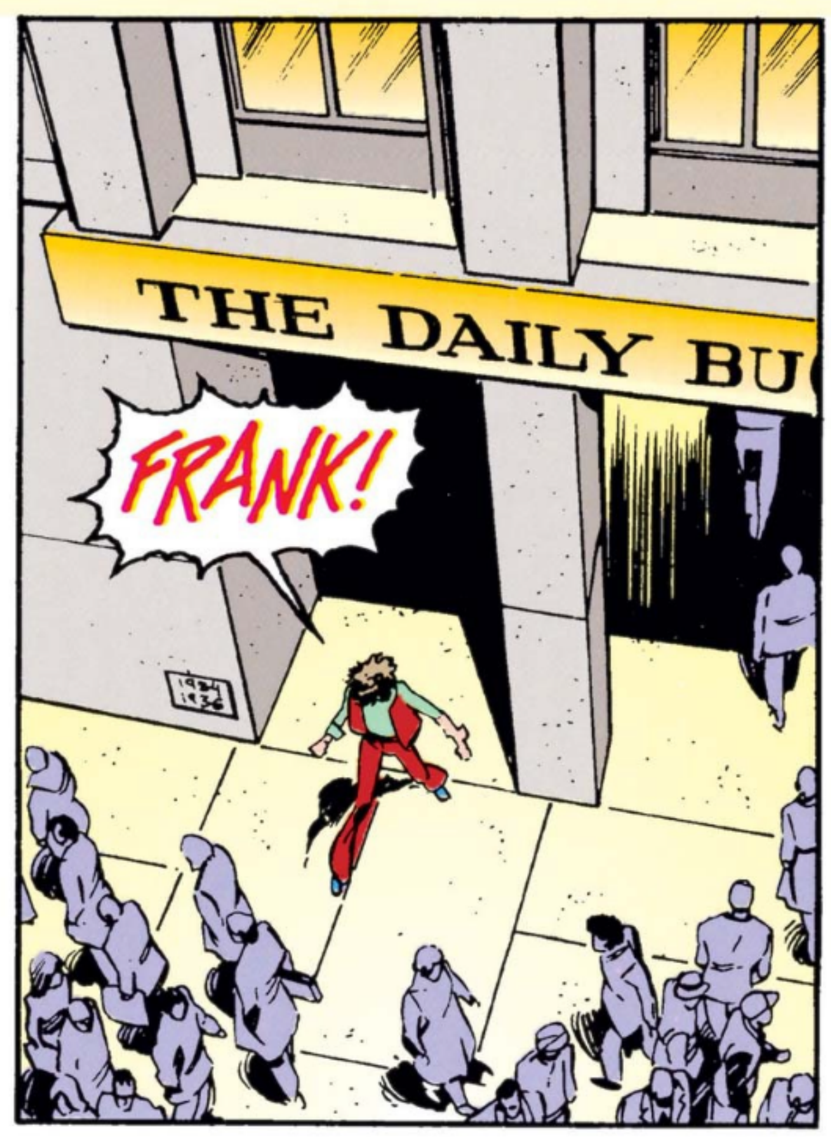
HERE WE GO. COFFEE FOR--

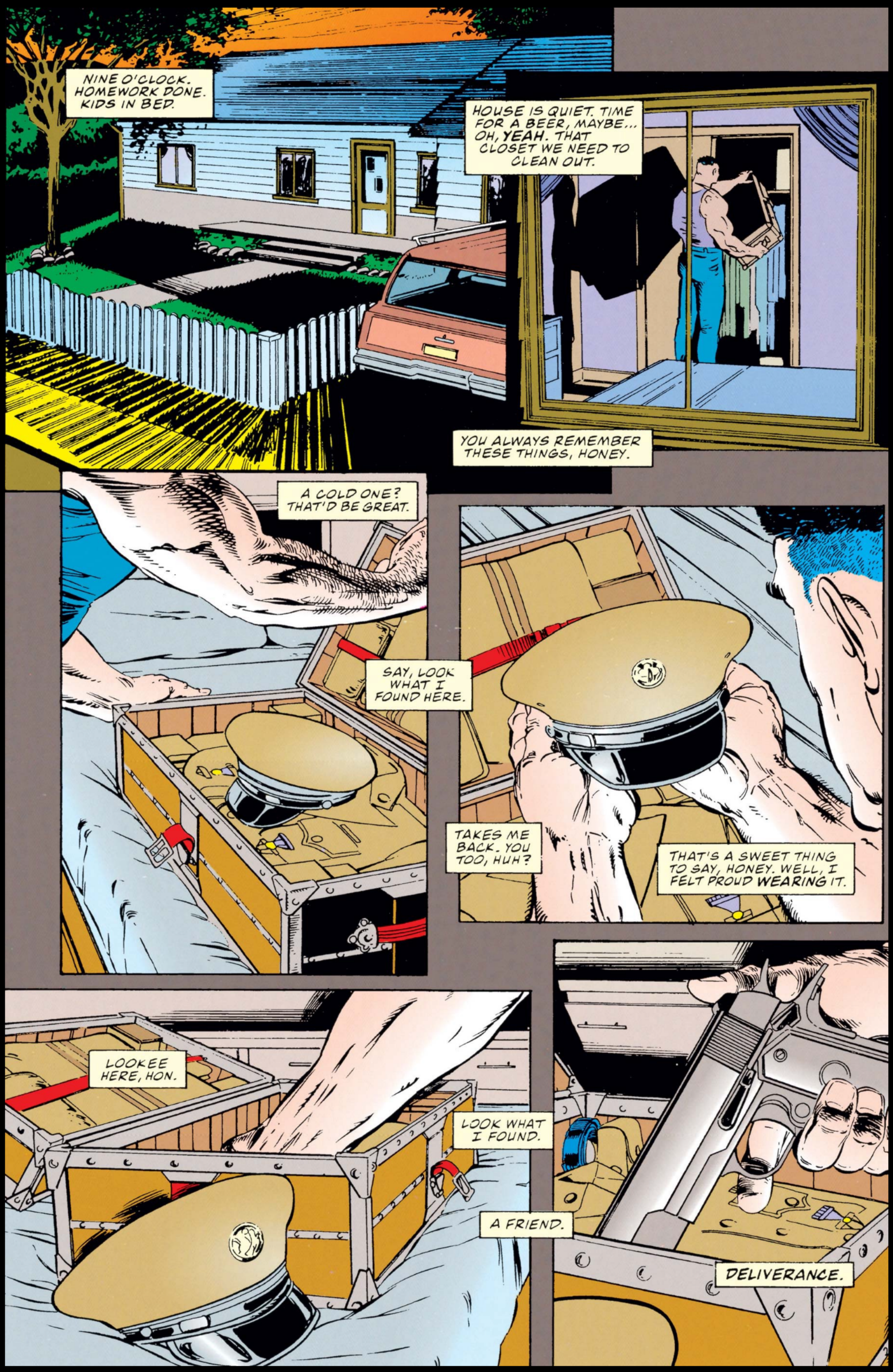
JAMESON'S ALL FIRED UP ON SOME SPIDER-MAN GARBAGE. I'LL GO BACK IN WHEN HE'S CALMED DOWN.
WHERE'S CASTLE, BETTY?
HE LEFT. HE WAS READING MY MEMOS AND THEN HE--

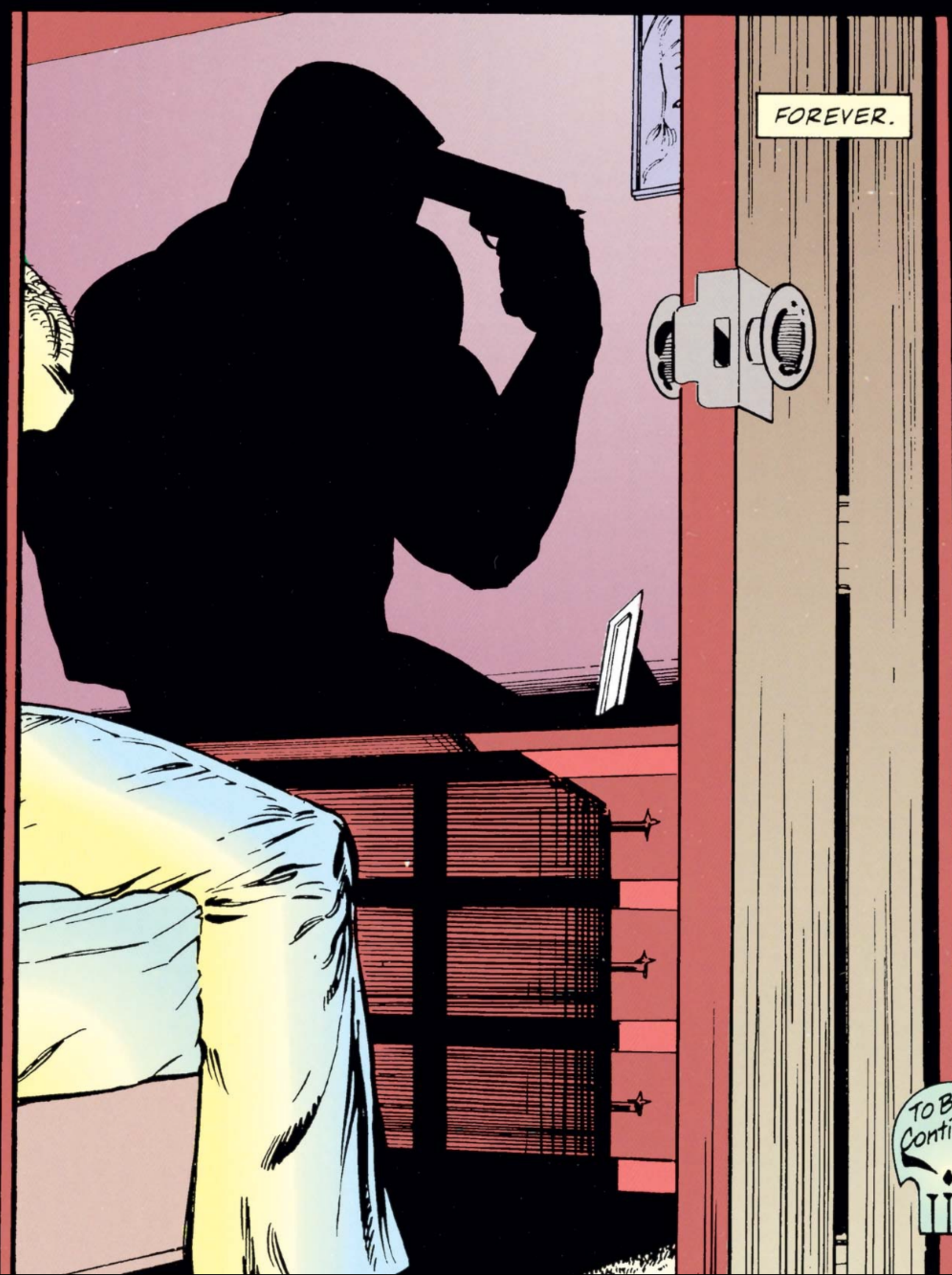
OH NO!


MEM
Mateer, your wife rang. please call her back.

WHAT?
FALLING APART! IT'S ALL FALLING APART! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM...!


THE DAILY BU
FRANK!


NINE O'CLOCK. HOMEWORK DONE. KIDS IN BED.
HOUSE IS QUIET. TIME FOR A BEER, MAYBE... OH, YEAH. THAT CLOSET WE NEED TO CLEAN OUT.
YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER THESE THINGS, HONEY.
A COLD ONE? THAT'D BE GREAT.
SAY, LOOK WHAT I FOUND HERE.
TAKES ME BACK. YOU TOO, HUH?
THAT'S A SWEET THING TO SAY, HONEY. WELL, I FELT PROUD WEARING IT.
LOOKEE HERE, HON.
LOOK WHAT I FOUND.
A FRIEND.
DELIVERANCE.



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